

# **Towards Efficient Discovery of Stable Periodic Patterns in Big Columnar Temporal Databases**

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**Abstract.** Extracting stable periodic-frequent patterns in very large temporal databases is a key task in big data analytics. Existing studies have mainly concentrated on discovering these patterns only in row temporal databases, and completely ignored the existence of these patterns in columnar databases, which are widely becoming popular for storing big data. In this paper we propose an efficient algorithm, Stable Periodicfrequent Pattern-Equivalence CLass Transformation (SPP-ECLAT), to find the desired patterns in a columnar temporal database. Empirical results demonstrate that the SPP-ECLAT algorithm is much faster and consumes significantly less memory than the state-of-the-art SPP-growth algorithm on sparse and dense databases.

**Keywords:** Columnar databases · Periodic patterns · Pattern mining

### **1 Introduction**

Databases are broadly classified into two types based on the layout of data recording on a storage device, namely *row databases* and *columnar databases*<sup>1</sup>. Row databases store data as records, maintaining the complete data associated with a record in a storage device next to each other. These databases are primarily based on ACID<sup>2</sup> properties and are designed to read and write rows fast. MySQL and Postgres are two examples of horizontal databases. Columnar databases organize data into fields and store the complete data corresponding with a field in the same storage device. These databases are primarily based on

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 $1$  Row and columnar databases are also referred to as horizontal and vertical databases, respectively.

 $^{\rm 2}$  ACID stands for Atomicity, Consistency, Isolation, and Duration.

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BASE[3](#page-1-0) properties and are designed to be efficient when reading and computing on columns. Snowflake and BigQuery are two examples of columnar databases. Both row and columnar databases have their respective advantages and disadvantages. So, the user and/or application requirements determine the appropriate database layout. Generally, row databases are better suited to online transaction processing (OLTP), whereas columnar databases are better suited to online analytical processing (OLAP). Since the primary objective of OLAP is to uncover meaningful information in data, this paper makes an effort to discover stable periodic-frequent patterns in a columnar database.

Periodic-frequent pattern mining is a useful and essential big data analytical technique. It involves identifying all patterns that satisfy the *minimum support*  $(minSup)$  and *maximum periodicity*  $(maxPer)$  constraints which are specified by user. *M inSup* measure constraints the minimum number of transactions in a database where a pattern must appear.  $MaxPer$  measure constraints the maximum time interval within which a pattern must reappear. Periodic-frequent pattern has been used for the analysis of market-basket analysis, which involves finding the sets of items purchased by the customers periodically. Consider a following example:

$$
{\{Bread, Butter\}~[support=25\%, periodicity=2~h].}
$$

This pattern provides information that 25% of the customers have purchased the items 'Bread' and 'Butter' at least once every two hours. Such information may be helpful to the managers of a supermarket for inventory management and product placement. Periodic-frequent pattern mining was extended to find fuzzy periodicfrequent patterns [\[1](#page-12-0)], partial periodic patterns [\[2](#page-12-1)], and high utility periodic patterns [\[3\]](#page-12-2). However, this technique has the major disadvantage of being overly strict. The reason is that a pattern is discarded if there exist only one period that exceeds *maxP er*. For example, a pattern that shows a customer purchases bread every day would be discarded if the customer skipped only one day.

To deal with the above problem, some studies was proposed a model to find partial periodic patterns [\[4\]](#page-12-3) by relaxing the *maxP er* constraint, i.e., some of the periods of a pattern is greater than the user-specified *maxP er* value. Unfortunately, this [\[4](#page-12-3)] model is accepting some of the patterns which are having very lengthy periods. For example, purchasing bread can be considered periodic even if a customer purchases it on multiple days but without purchasing it again for a month. The length of periods for some patterns can vary significantly in a real-world database so that traditional models for discovering periodic-frequent patterns are insufficient.

A new class of periodic-frequent patterns named stable periodic-frequent patterns were introduced by Philippe et al. [\[5\]](#page-12-4), whose recurrence deviation in the database is within the user-specified threshold value. These patterns overcome the above mentioned limitations of the periodic-frequent patterns. Furthermore, a pattern-growth algorithm, called Stable Periodic-Frequent Patterngrowth (SPP-growth), was proposed to discover desired patterns in a temporal database. However, there exist two limitations as follows:

<span id="page-1-0"></span><sup>3</sup> BASE stands for Basically Available, Soft state, and Eventually consistent.

- SPP-growth is designed to discover stable periodic-frequent patterns only in row databases. So, desired patterns in columnar databases cannot be found by this algorithm. In addition, this would be costly to transform a big columnar database into a row database.
- In the SPP-growth algorithm, huge memory is required to complete a treebased recursive mining process, and runtime consumption is also very high.

To that end, a novel algorithm, named Stable Periodic-frequent Pattern-Equivalence CLass Transformation (SPP-ECLAT), is proposed in this paper to discover stable periodic-frequent patterns in a columnar temporal database. The proposed algorithm is shown to be efficient in terms of both memory and runtime.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. The related work is presented in Sect. [2.](#page-2-0) The model of stable periodic-frequent pattern is provided in detail in Sect. [3.](#page-3-0) The SPP-ECLAT algorithm is then described in Sect. [4.](#page-5-0) Section [5](#page-7-0) shows the evaluation results and discussions. Finally, conclusions and future research directions are given in Sect. [6.](#page-11-0)

### <span id="page-2-0"></span>**2 Related Work**

Tanbeer et al. [\[6\]](#page-12-5) described a novel pattern-growth algorithm to discover periodic-frequent patterns in a transactional database. Amphawan et al. [\[7](#page-12-6)] have identified the most frequent patterns as candidate patterns and generated the Top-k periodic-frequent patterns with the help of the best-first search strategy. Uday et al. [\[8\]](#page-12-7) have designed a novel concept named *local periodicity* to prune the non-periodic patterns locally. Authors have discarded the patterns whose *local periodicity* is less than the user-specified  $maxPer$  value. As a result, most of the non-periodic patterns tid-lists were not completely built, resulting in a decrease in the computational time of the proposed algorithm. Anirudh et al. [\[9\]](#page-12-8) have designed an approach to reduce the memory consumption of the pattern growth approach. In general, PF-trees have maintained the transaction identifiers (tid) in a particular node named as tail-node. However, in real-world applications, it is highly impractical to maintain the complete tid-list. Hence the authors have designed a new strategy named periodic summaries to be maintained at the tail-node to reduce the memory consumption while generating periodic-frequent patterns. Ravi et al. [\[10](#page-12-9)] have introduced PF- ECLAT, to find periodic-frequent patterns in a columnar databases. All the algorithms mentioned above will discard a non-periodic pattern if any of the period or local period exceeds the value of the *maxPer* constraint. Kiran et al. [\[11](#page-12-10)] have classified patterns as partial periodic and full periodic patterns. In real-world applications, some patterns will occur only at a particular point of time named partial periodic patterns. However, this algorithm cannot be applied to mine stable periodic-frequent patterns. The proposed algorithm has calculated the *period*−*support* measure as a count of the periods of the patterns whose value is less than the user-specified *maxP er*. Unfortunately, it completely ignores the periods' deviation from the  $maxPer$ .

A new interestingness measure called lability was exploited by Philippe et al. [\[5\]](#page-12-4) to determine the interestigness of stable periodic-frequent patterns in transactional databases. Authors had described a new strategy named lability. The lability of a pattern is the cumulative sum of the difference between each period length and *maxper*. A novel measure *maxLa* was also used to assess the stability of a pattern's periodic behavior in a database. Ruimeng et al. [\[12\]](#page-12-11) discussed a model to find stable periodic-frequent patterns in uncertain databases. Fournier-Viger et al. [\[13](#page-12-12)] utilized the concept of top-K mining to generate the stable periodic-frequent patterns. It has to be noted that all of these algorithms find the patterns in only row databases. In this paper, we have devised an algorithm to find the patterns in columnar databases.

### <span id="page-3-0"></span>**3 Model of Stable Periodic-Frequent Patterns**

Assume that we have a **pattern** (or an itemset)  $Y, Y \subseteq I$ , where I is the set of items. Denoted *k*-pattern as the pattern that has *k* items,  $k \geq 1$ .  $t_k = (ts, X)$ is a **transaction** with X being the pattern and ts being timestamp,  $ts \in \mathbb{R}^+$ . A set of transactions constitute a **temporal database** denoted by *TDB* over *I*, i.e.,  $TDB = \{t_1, \dots, t_d\}, d = |TDB|$ . Let  $ts^Y$  be the timestamp of pattern *Y*, *Y*  $\subseteq$  *X*, which occurs in transaction  $t_i$  (or  $t_i$  contains *Y*),  $t_i = (ts, X), i \geq 1$ . Denoted  $TS^Y$  as a set of timestamps  $\{ts_j^Y, \dots, ts_i^Y\}$ ,  $j, k \in [1, d]$  and  $j \leq i$ .  $TS<sup>Y</sup>$  can be consider as an **ordered set of timestamps** of pattern *Y*.

*Example [1](#page-4-0).* Assume that we have a set of items  $I = \{p, q, r, s, t, u\}$ . Table 1 shows a row temporal database. Table [2](#page-4-1) shows a columnar temporal database which is converted from above row database. In Table [3](#page-4-2) we show for each item the temporal occurrences over the whole database. The set of items '*r*' and '*q*', i.e.,  $\{r, q\}$  is a pattern. This pattern will be represented as '*rq*' for brevity. This pattern is denoted as 2-pattern because it contains two items. The occurrences of pattern '*rq*' are at the timestamps of 1*,* 3*,* 6*,* 8*,* 9, and 10. Therefore, we have a list of timestamps containing '*rq*', i.e.,  $TS^{rq} = \{1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10\}.$ 

**Definition 1** *(The support of Y). Denoted*  $sup(Y)$  *the support of Y* which *is the number of transactions containing Y in TDB. That is,*  $sup(Y) = |TS^Y|$ *.* 

*Example 2.* The *support* of '*rq*', i.e.,  $sup(rq) = |TS^{rq}| = 6$ .

**Definition 2** *(Frequentpattern Y). The pattern Y is a frequent pattern if*  $sup(Y) \geq minSupP$ *, where*  $minSupp$  *is a minimum support value indicated by user.*

*Example 3.* Suppose *minSup* = 5*,* then *rq* is a frequent pattern because of  $sup(rq) \geq minSup.$ 

**Definition 3.** *(Periodicity of Y). Denoted*  $ts_m^Y$  *and*  $ts_n^X$ ,  $j \leq m < n \leq k$  *the two consecutive timestamps in*  $TS^Y$ . The time difference between  $ts_n^Y$  and  $ts_m^Y$ *is given by a* **period** of Y, denoted by  $p_z^Y$ . That is,  $p_z^Y = ts_n^Y - ts_m^Y$ . Denoted  $P^Y = (p_1^Y, p_2^Y, \dots, p_n^Y)$  *the set of all periods for pattern Y*. The **periodicity** *of Y*, denoted by  $per(Y) = maximum(p_1^Y, p_2^Y, \dots, p_n^Y)$ .

<span id="page-4-0"></span>

<span id="page-4-1"></span>**Table 2.** Columnar database



|                | $_{\rm{Items}}$  |                |              |                |            |                  | Items       |                  |              |        |                  |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|--------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| ts             | $\boldsymbol{p}$ | q              | c            | S              | $\epsilon$ | $\boldsymbol{u}$ | $t_{\rm s}$ | $\boldsymbol{p}$ | q            | $\tau$ | $\boldsymbol{s}$ | t              | $\boldsymbol{u}$ |
| 1              | $\mathbf{0}$     | 1              | 1            | 1              | 0          | 0                | 6           | 1                | 1            | 1      | 0                | $\overline{0}$ | 0                |
| $\overline{2}$ | 1                | 1              | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\overline{0}$ | 0          | 0                | 7           | $\mathbf{0}$     | $\mathbf{0}$ | 0      | 1                | 1              | 1                |
| 3              | 1                | 1              | 1            | 1              | 0          | 0                | 8           | $\mathbf{0}$     | 1            | 1      | 1                | $\overline{0}$ | 0                |
| $\overline{4}$ | 0                | $\overline{0}$ | 0            | $\overline{0}$ | 1          | 1                | 9           | 1                | 1            | 1      | 1                | $\overline{0}$ | $\mathbf{0}$     |
| 5              | 1                | $\overline{0}$ | 1            | 1              | 0          | 0                | 10          | 1                | 1            | 1      | 1                | $\overline{0}$ | $\mathbf{0}$     |

<span id="page-4-2"></span>**Table 3.** Timestamp list of an item



*Example 4.* All periods of the pattern '*rq*' are :  $p_1^{rq} = 1$  (= 1 – *ts*<sub>*initial*</sub>),  $p_2^{rq} =$  $2 (= 3 - 1), p_3^{rq} = 3 (= 6 - 3), p_4^{rq} = 2 (= 8 - 6), p_5^{rq} = 1 (= 9 - 8), p_6^{rq} =$ 1 (= 10 − 9), and  $p_8^{rq} = 0$  (=  $ts_{final} - 10$ ), where first transaction time stamp is denoted by  $ts<sub>initial</sub> = 0$  and the last transaction's time stamp is denoted by,  $ts_{final} = |TDB| = 10$ . The *periodicity* of *rq*, i.e.,  $per(rq) =$  $maximum(1, 2, 3, 2, 1, 1, 1, 0) = 3.$ 

**Definition 4** *(Periodic-frequent pattern Y). The frequent pattern Y be considered as periodic-frequent pattern if*  $per(Y) \leq maxPer$ , here  $maxPer$  is maximum periodicity *value which is specified by user.*

*Example 5.* Let the user-specified  $maxPer = 3$ , in this case the frequent pattern '*rq*' is called as a periodic-frequent pattern as  $per(rq) \leq maxPer$ .

<span id="page-4-3"></span>**Definition 5** *(Lability of an itemset).* Denoted  $ts_{i+1}^Y$  and  $ts_i^Y$ ,  $i \in$  $[0, \sup(Y)]$  *two consecutive time stamps where Y occurs in TDB. We call ith lability of Y denoted by*  $la(Y, i) = max(0, la(Y, i - 1) + p_i^Y - maxPer)$ *, where*  $la(Y, -1) = 0$ *. For simplicity, the following short form is used* 

$$
la(Y, i) = max(0, la(Y, i - 1) + ts_{i+1}^{Y} - ts_i^{Y} - maxPer)
$$

*The following is a list of periods which represent the lability of an itemset Y : la*(*Y*) = {*la*(*Y,* 0)*,la*(*Y,* 1)*,* ··· *,la*(*Y, sup*(*Y*))}*, and*  $|la(Y)| = |per(Y)| =$  $sup(Y) + 1$ .

*Example 6.* Given an item p. If  $maxPer = 2$ , the parameters for calculating its lability are  $la(p, 0) = max(0, la(p, -1) + p_0^p - maxPer) = max(0, 0 + 2 - 2) = 0$ ,  $la(a(p, 1) = 0, la(p, 2) = 0, la(p, 3) = 0, la(p, 4) = 1, la(p, 5) = 0, and la(p, 6) = 0.$ Therefore, the lability of *p* is  $la(p) = \{0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0\}.$ 

Based on Definition [5,](#page-4-3) the periodic pattern can be considered as stable (lability is zero) if all its periods are less than or equal to *maxP er*. The lability of a period of a pattern will increase when a period of a pattern larger than *maxP er*, and these exceeding values are accumulated using the measure of lability. The value of lability will be reduced when periods of a pattern no more than *maxP er*. Therefore, according to the periodic characteristic of a pattern, its *lability* will vary over time, and each value exceeding  $maxPer$  is accumulated. A periodic behavior is considered stable when lability value is low while a high value means an unstable one. So stable pattern can be found using this measure given a limit on the maximum lability.

**Definition 6** *(Stable periodic-frequent pattern). For a pattern Y , denote la(Y) the set of all i-th lability. The stability of the pattern is defined by maxla(Y)*  $= max(la(Y))$ . Pattern *Y* is a SPP if  $sup(Y) \ge minSup$  and  $maxla(Y) \le$ *maxLa.*

*Example 7.* Given the above example, if the user specified  $minSup=4$ ,  $maxPer = 2$ , and  $maxLa = 1$ , the complete set of SPPs are *p*: (6,1), *ps*: (4,0), *psr*: (4,0), *pq*: (5,0), *pqr*: (4,0), *pr*: (5,0), *q*: (7,1), *qs*: (5,0), *qsr*: (5,0), *qr*: (6,0), *r*: (7,0), *rs*:(6,0) and *s*: (7,0), where each SPP *Y* is annotated with *Y* : ( $\sup(Y)$ ,  $maxLa(Y)$ .

Be noted that if  $maxLa = 0$ , SPPs are the traditional PFPs. Therefore, the PFPs is a special case of SPPs.

**Definition 7** *(Problem definition). Considering a temporal database (TDB) with* minimum support  $(minSup)$ , maximum periodicity  $(maxPer)$ , and maximum lability *(maxLa) constraints. The purpose of this task is discovering the complete set of stable periodic-frequent patterns that have support higher or equal to minSup and lability lower or equal to maxLa constraints.*

## <span id="page-5-0"></span>**4 Our Mining Algorithm: SPP-ECLAT**

This section shows the process of mining the stable periodic-frequent patterns in two steps using SPP-ECLAT algorithm and our algorithm works in two steps. First, SPP-ECLAT algorithm utilizes the Depth-First Search (DFS) strategy on the itemset lattice. Second, this algorithm employs the *downward closure property* (see Property [1\)](#page-5-1) of stable periodic-frequent patterns to minimize the huge search space of the lattice effectively.

<span id="page-5-1"></span>*Property 1.* If *A* is a stable periodic-frequent pattern, then  $\forall A \subseteq B$  and  $A \neq \emptyset$ , *A* is also a stable periodic-frequent pattern.

### **4.1 Mining 1-Stable Periodic-Frequent Patterns**

This part focuses on discovering 1-patterns by SPP-list. The detailed steps are shown in Algorithm [1,](#page-8-0) which works on a row database shown in Table [1.](#page-4-0) Let  $minSup = 5$  and  $maxPer = 2$  and  $maxLa = 1$ .

The 1-patterns are first generated by reading the whole database transactions at once. Then, the row database is converted to the columnar database. After reading the 1<sup>st</sup> transaction, "1 :  $qrs$ ", with  $ts_{cur} = 1$  inserts the items  $q$ , r and *s*, in the SPP-list. We have the timestamps of these items is  $1 (= t s_{cur})$ . Similarly, *ML* and *T S<sup>l</sup>* contents were updated to 0 and 1, respectively (lines 7 and 8 in



<span id="page-6-0"></span>Fig. 1. SPP-list generation process. (a) content of the list after reading the 1<sup>st</sup> transaction, (b) after reading the  $2^{nd}$  one, (c) after reading the  $3^{rd}$  one, (d) after reading the 4*th* one, (e) Final content after reading the whole database, and (f) The complete list of 1-stable periodic-frequent patterns

Algorithm [1\)](#page-8-0). Figure  $1(a)$  $1(a)$  shows the generated SPP-list from the  $1^{st}$  transaction. After reading the  $2^{nd}$  one, "2 :  $pq$ ", with  $ts_{cur} = 2$  inserts the new items p into the SPP-list by adding  $2 (= t s_{cur})$  in their TS-list. At the same instant, the  $ML$ and *TS*<sup>*l*</sup> contents were updated to 0 and 2, respectively. Besides  $2 (= t s_{cur})$ was added to the TS-list of existing items  $q$  with  $ML$  and  $TS_l$  contents were updated to 0 and 2, respectively (lines 10 and 13 in Algorithm [1\)](#page-8-0). The SPP-list which is generated after reading the  $2^{nd}$  one is shown in Fig. [1\(](#page-6-0)b). After reading the  $3^{rd}$  one, "3 : *pqrs*", updates the TS-list,  $ML$  and  $TS_l$  values of *p, q, r,* and  $s$  in the SPP-list. Figure  $1(c)$  $1(c)$  shows the SPP-list which is generated after reading the 3<sup>rd</sup> one. After reading the 4<sup>th</sup> one, "4 : *tu*" with  $ts_{cur} = 4$ , inserts the new items *e* and *u* into the SPP-list by adding  $4 (= t s_{cur})$  in their TSlist. Simultaneously, the  $ML$  and  $TS_l$  values as 2 and 4. Figure [1\(](#page-6-0)d) shows the SPP-list which is generated after reading the  $4^{th}$ . We repeat the whole process for the remaining transactions. Figure  $1(e)$  $1(e)$  depicts the final SPP-list which is generated after scanning the whole database. The pattern *t* and *u* are pruned (using the Property [1\)](#page-5-1) from the SPP-list as its *support* value is no more than the *minSup* value and *ML* value is greater than *maxLa* (lines 15 to 20 in Algorithm [1\)](#page-8-0). The complete list of patterns available in the SPP-list are considered as 1 stable periodic-frequent patterns. Those patterns are sorted in descending order in terms of their *support* values. Figure [1\(](#page-6-0)f) shows the final SPP-list.

#### **4.2 Finding All Interesting Patterns from SPP-ECLAT**

The detailed procedure for finding stable periodic-frequent patterns is shown in Algorithm [2.](#page-8-1) Given the newly generated SPP-list, the procedure of this algorithm is carried out as follows. Initially we choose the pattern  $q$ , as this is the initial pattern in the SPP-list (line 2 in Algorithm [2\)](#page-8-1). Figure  $2(a)$  $2(a)$  shows a record of its *support* and *lability*. Since *q* is a stable periodic-frequent pattern, we move



<span id="page-7-1"></span>**Fig. 2.** The complete process of discovering stable periodic-frequent patterns using SPP-ECLAT algorithm

to its child node *qr*. TS-list of *qr* is generated by performing intersection of TS-lists of *q* and *r*, i.e.,  $TS^{qr} = TS^q \cap TS^r$  (lines 2 and 3 in Algorithm [2\)](#page-8-1). This *support* and *lability* of *qr* are recorded, as shown in Fig. [2\(](#page-7-1)b). We check whether *qr* is a stable periodic-frequent pattern or unstable periodic frequent pattern (line 4 in Algorithm [2\)](#page-8-1). Since *qr* is stable periodic-frequent pattern we move it to its child node *qrs*. Next, TS-list will be generated by performing the intersection of TS-lists of *qr* and *s*, i.e.,  $TS^{qrs} = TS^{qr} \cap TS^s$ . Figure [2\(](#page-7-1)c) shows a record of *support* and *lability* of *qrs*. Then *qrs* is identified as a stable periodic-frequent pattern. Later, we shift to its child node *qrsp*. We produce its TS-list by performing intersection of TS-lists of *qrs* and *p*, i.e.,  $TS^{qrsp} =$  $TS^{qrs} \cap TS^p$ . Because a *support* of *qrsp* is less than  $minSup$  and lability is greater than *maxla*, the pattern *qrsp* will be remove from the stable periodicfrequent patterns list as shown in Fig.  $2(d)$  $2(d)$ . We repeat the process to find all stable periodic-frequent patterns for remaining nodes in the tree. Figure  $2(e)$  $2(e)$ shows the final list of generated stable periodic-frequent patterns. Since we can reduces the search space and the computational cost effectively our proposed approach is efficient.

### <span id="page-7-0"></span>**5 Experimental Results**

This section evaluates the performance of the SPP-ECLAT against the state-ofthe-art algorithm named SPP-growth [\[5](#page-12-4)]. It shows that the SPP-ECLAT algorithm is more efficient in memory consumption and runtime than SPP-growth.

**Algorithm 1 .** StablePeriodicFrequentItems(Temporal database (*TDB*), minimum support (*minSup*), maximum periodicity (*maxPer*), maximum Lability (*maxla*):

1: Definition:  $SPP-list = (Y, TS-list(Y))$  is a dictionary with the temporal occurrence information of a pattern in a *TDB*; *T S<sup>l</sup>* is a temporary variable of list type to store the *timestamp* of the final occurrence of a pattern; *la* and *ML* are temporary variable of list type to store the *lability* and the *Maximum Lability* of a pattern; *last* is a term for the final timestamp; *support* is a temporary varibale of list type to store the *support* of a pattern. 2: Initate  $ts_{cur} = 0$ 3: **for** each transaction  $t_{cur} \in TDB$  **do**<br>4. Set  $t_{Sum} = t_{run} t_s$ . 4: Set  $ts_{cur} = t_{cur}$ *ts*;<br>5: **for** each item  $i \in t_c$ 5: **for** each item  $j \in t_{cur}$ . *Y* **do**<br>6: **if** *i* does not exit in SPP-6: **if**  $j$  does not exit in SPP-list **then**<br>7: SPP-list is updated by inserting 7: SPP-list is updated by inserting *j* and corresponding timestamp value<br>8.  $la^{[i]} = max(0, t_8, \ldots, maxPer)$  Set  $ML[i] = L[i]$ 8:  $la[j] = max(0, ts_{cur} - maxPer)$ . Set  $ML[j] = la[j]$ <br>9: else 9: **else** 10: Add *j*'s timestamp in the SPP-list.<br>11:  $la[i] = max(0, la[i] + ts_{conv} - TS_{l}]$ 11:  $la[j] = max(0, la[j] + ts_{cur} - TS_{l}[j] - maxPer$ <br>12:  $ML[j] = max(la[j], ML[j])$  $ML[j] = max(la[j], ML[j])$ 13: Update  $TS_l[j] = ts_{cur}$ .<br>14:  $last = ts_{cur}$ .  $last = ts_{cur}$ 15: **for** each item *j* in SPP-list **do**<br>16:  $la[i] = max(0, la[i] + last - ...)$ 16:  $la[f] = max(0, la[j] + last - TS_l[j] - maxPer)$ <br>17:  $ML[j] = max(la[j], ML[j])$  $ML[j] = max(la[j], ML[j])$ 18:  $s[j] = length(TS\text{-}list[j])$ <br>
19: **if**  $s[i] < minSun$  and N 19: **if**  $s[j] < minSup$  and  $ML[j] > maxla$  **then**<br>20: Prune **i** from SPP-list Prune j from SPP-list 21: After the pruning the final list of patterns available in the SPP-list is sorted in ascending order or descending order of the corresponding pattern's *support*. Initiate *pi* as Null. Call SPP-

#### <span id="page-8-0"></span>ECLAT(SPP-List, pi).

#### **Algorithm 2.** SPP-ECLAT(SPP-List, pi)



```
2: Set Y = j \cup pi and TS^Y = TS^j \cap TS^{pi};<br>3: Calculate support and Lability of X;<br>4: if sup(TS^Y) \ge minSup \text{ and } la(TS^Y) \le maxla then
```
5: Add *j* to *pi* and *Y* is considered as stable periodic-frequent pattern;<br>6:  $SPP\text{-}ECLAT(SPP\text{-}list[i+1], pi)$ ;

```
SPP\text{-}EC\hat{L}AT(\text{SPP-list}[j+1:],pi);
```
The algorithms, SPP-growth and SPP-ECLAT, were developed in Python 3.7 and executed on a machine containing two AMD EPIC 7542 cpus and 600 GB RAM. The operating system of this machine is Ubuntu Server OS 20.04. The experiments have been conducted on real-world (T10I4D100K, Retail, and Mushroom) databases. The complete statistics of the databases is shown in the Table [4.](#page-9-0)

In this experiment, we have fixed the values of  $minSup, maxPer$  for all the three databases. Subsequently, we have evaluated the performance of both the algorithms by varying the *maxLa* parameter for all the three databases. Figure  $3(a)-3(c)$  $3(a)-3(c)$  shows the number of stable periodic-frequent patterns generated in T10I4D100K, Retail, and Mushroom databases at different *maxLa* values. After careful observation of the mentioned graphs, we can conclude that raises in *maxLa* positively affect the total count of the number of stable periodic-frequent patterns. With an increase in the *maxLa* threshold, most of the patterns have become stable periodic-frequent patterns.

<span id="page-9-0"></span>

|                | S. No Database                  | Nature Transaction<br>Type |        |                                            | Database |      |          |
|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------|----------|------|----------|
|                |                                 |                            |        | Length (in count) $\lvert$ Size (in count) |          |      |          |
|                |                                 |                            |        | min.                                       | avg.     | max. |          |
|                | T10I4D100K   Synthetic   Sparse |                            |        |                                            | 10       | 29   | 1,00,000 |
| $\overline{2}$ | Retail                          | Real                       | Sparse | $\overline{2}$                             | 12       | 77   | 88,162   |
| 3              | Mushroom                        | Real                       | Dense  | 23                                         | 23       | 23   | 8,124    |

<span id="page-9-1"></span>**Table 4.** Statistics of the databases used



**Fig. 3.** Number of stable periodic-frequent patterns generated in various datasets

We have varied the values of  $minSup$ ,  $maxPer$ , and  $maxLa$  parameters and shown the runtime requirements of SPP-growth and SPP-ECLAT algorithms in Fig. [4.](#page-10-0) Specifically, for Retail database, the runtime requirement of both algorithms are shown in Fig.  $4(a)-4(c)$  $4(a)-4(c)$ , respectively. For T10I4D100K database, the runtime requirement of both algorithms are shown in Fig.  $4(d)$  $4(d)$ – $4(f)$ , respectively. For Mushroom database, the runtime requirement of both algorithms are shown in Fig.  $4(g)-4(i)$  $4(g)-4(i)$ , respectively. After careful observation of the mentioned graphs, we can conclude that raises in the value of the *maxLa* parameter shows the raising trend in the graphs. However, we can conclude that SPP-ECLAT algorithms always consumes relatively less runtime than the SPP-growth algorithm.

We have varied the values of  $minSup, maxPer$ , and  $maxLa$  parameters and shown the memory consumption of SPP-growth and SPP-ECLAT algorithms in Fig. [5.](#page-11-1) Specifically, for Retail database, the memory consumption of both algorithms are shown in Fig.  $5(a)-5(c)$  $5(a)-5(c)$ , respectively. For T10I4D100K database, the runtime requirement of both algorithms are shown in Fig.  $5(d)$  $5(d)$ –Fig.  $5(f)$ , respectively. For Mushroom database, the runtime requirement of both algorithms are



<span id="page-10-0"></span>**Fig. 4.** Runtime comparison of the two algorithms

shown in Fig.  $5(g)$  $5(g)$ – $5(i)$ , respectively. After careful observation of the mentioned graphs, we can conclude that raises in the value of the *maxLa* parameter shows the raising trend in the graphs. However, we can conclude that SPP-ECLAT algorithms always consumes relatively less memory than the SPP-growth algorithm.



<span id="page-11-1"></span>**Fig. 5.** Memory comparison of the two algorithms

### <span id="page-11-0"></span>**6 Conclusions and Future Work**

This paper proposes an efficient algorithm called stable periodic-frequent pattern-equivalence class transformation to discover stable periodic-frequent patterns from columnar temporal databases. The experiment was carryout with different real-world databases. Experimental results show that the proposed algorithm consumes less memory and can generate interesting patterns much faster than the state-of-the-art algorithm. We want to work on parallel algorithms to discover stable periodic-frequent patterns in vast temporal databases as part of future work.

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