

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**RANKING-BASED PRUNING AND  
WEIGHTED SUPPORT MODEL FOR  
GENE ASSOCIATION IN FREQUENT  
ITEMSETS**

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Thesis submitted in fulfilment  
of the requirements for the degree of  
**Doctor of Philosophy**  
**(Information Technology and Quantitative Sciences)**

**Faculty of Computer and Mathematical Sciences**


**August 2019**

## AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work, this thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

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## ABSTRACT

Biological domain is one of the critical areas that always seek for useful knowledge and patterns observed through available methods, including data mining. One of genomic benchmark data sources is from Genome Wide Association Studies (GWAS), which uses a set of genetic variants, namely Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs), in different individuals to observe the association of the variants with a particular trait. Usually, the association test in GWAS is done by finding the risk measure of each of the SNPs separately. But many of the variants and its effect remain a mystery which has high potential of knowledge discovery especially for complex diseases. The aim of the research is to develop an improved method for processing information and to find the relationship between genetic variants and disease with in-depth interpretation. Therefore, this research attempts to investigate the association between genetic variants to diseases, and thus propose a method that can identify multiple SNPs combination to form an association using Frequent Itemset Mining (FIM). Five main stages of methodology in this research are, data understanding, data representation and pruning items, FIM and analysis and validation of knowledge. This thesis elaborates a set of crucial tasks in FIM for GWAS datasets. It proposes a strategy of Ranking-based Pruning of Items (RPI) for SNPs. Next, the development of Weighted Support Model (WSM) was done to search for interesting itemsets. The measurement used are Information Gain for ranking to prune items and Weighted Support for interestingness of itemset. High dimensional dataset presented by SNPs confirmed the reason to apply row enumeration strategy algorithm to mine frequent closed itemsets. It is found that SNPs with known risks to Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) occur in low support values, that cause the process of searching frequent itemsets to be repeated many times until the low support values are retrieved. The implementation of WSM with Odds Ratio (OR) values, gives visibility of these itemsets as higher *weighted support* value. Finally, the validation for interestingness of produced itemsets is through the integration of available and relevant biological information with scrutinization of an expert as presented in the Descriptive Gene set Analysis (DGA). The information found in the itemsets concluded that the identified SNPs interact with other variants in the chain of T2DM. The scope of the work is using two most commonly chromosomes of T2DM studied, which are Chromosome 11 and 16. The results show that the itemsets with the T2DM risk variants were found within the *support* values of 40 to 48, and after the RPI and WSM are applied, the *weighted support* value increases to 50 and 97 within significant number of SNPs. These results show that RPI-WSM is able to solve the huge dataset problem and low support value problem in FIM. In addition, to improve the interpretation, each itemset is presented as combination of genes in DGA with gene annotation information, that supplies scientist with further valuing patterns. RPI, WSM and DGA are the contributions of the research and significant in discovering potential new knowledge and complimenting research by scientists to perform further validations. The study could also contribute to the advancement in healthcare and digital genome market, which focuses on developing healthier society through monitoring and early protection of any threats, especially of chronic diseases such as T2DM through personalized treatment or medicine.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
CONFIRMATION BY PANEL OF EXAMINERS	ii
AUTHOR'S DECLARATION	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
LIST OF SYMBOLS	xvii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xviii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Research Background	1
1.2 Problem Statement	5
1.3 Research Question	7
1.4 Research Objective	8
1.5 Research Scope	9
1.6 Research Significance	9
1.7 Research Framework	10
1.8 Overview of the Thesis	13
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	16
2.1 Introduction	16
2.2 Knowledge Discovery in Databases	18
2.3 Data Mining	20
2.3.1 The Opportunities in Data Mining	20
2.3.2 Task of Data Mining	22
2.3.3 Biological Data Mining	23
2.4 Overview of Frequent Itemset Mining	26

2.4.1	Frequent Itemsets in Association Analysis	27
2.4.2	Algorithm for Frequent Itemset Mining	31
2.4.3	Weighted Frequent Itemset Mining	39
2.5	Challenges in FIM	40
2.6	Genome Wide Association Studies	41
2.6.1	Single-Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) and Genes	43
2.6.2	GWAS Resources	45
2.6.3	Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and Identified Genes from GWAS	47
2.7	Modelling Task in GWAS	50
2.7.1	Past SNPs Studies with Data Mining Approach	52
2.7.2	Studies of GWAS using FIM	56
2.7.3	SNPs SELECTION	59
2.8	Challenges in SNPs Dataset	63
2.9	Discussion	64
2.10	Summary	67
<b>CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODS</b>		<b>69</b>
3.1	Introduction	69
3.2	Preliminary Study and Data Understanding	70
3.2.1	Data Format	74
3.2.2	SNPs with the T2DM Risk	75
3.3	Data Representation and Items Pruning	76
3.3.1	Data Representation	77
3.3.2	Data Sampling, Transformation and Partitioning	79
3.3.3	Feature Selection and Experimental Set Up	80
3.4	Frequent Itemset Mining and Analysis	83
3.4.1	Feasibility of the Algorithms and Experimental Setup	84
3.4.2	Evaluation of The Strategies	86
3.5	Weighted Support Model Development	86
3.5.1	Weighted Assignment for Mining Itemsets of SNPs	88
3.5.2	Analysis of the <i>Weighted Support</i> Itemset	91
3.6	Validation of Knowledge	92
3.7	Summary	96