



# Association mining-based method for enterprise's technological innovation intelligent decision making under big data

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## Abstract

Technological innovation is vital for the survival and development of enterprises. In the era of intelligent information interconnection and knowledge-driven economy, there is a growing interest in how to manage high-volume data, unlock its potential value, and provide intelligent analysis and decision-making support for enterprise's technological innovation. This paper proposes an improved knowledge association analysis method based on the semantic concept model. This approach enables the discovery of potential correlations and interaction modes between the influencing factors of enterprise's technological innovation, and provides a useful reference for decision-making by combining the analysis with the enterprise's own situation.

**Keywords:** Intelligent decision, association rule mining, enterprises technological innovation, FP-Growth algorithm.

## 1 Introduction

Technological innovation is the driving force behind growth and progress in enterprises. In today's fiercely competitive business landscape, implementing a technological innovation strategy and mastering core technologies are inevitable choices for businesses. In recent years, the Chinese central government has issued a series of policies aimed at promoting technological innovation among enterprises. These policies have established clear requirements for enhancing the basic innovation capacity

of enterprises and have identified key areas and directions for technological innovation capabilities development. As the value of enterprise technological innovation gains greater recognition from the state and government, more and more attention is being paid to the decision-making processes involved. Accurate analysis of a company's technological innovation ability can help identify problems, analyze root causes, and identify effective countermeasures. Such analysis can provide decision-making guidance and direction for the development of a company's technological innovation.

With the advent of big data, research on enterprise technological innovation decision-making has shifted from traditional manual analysis methods to intelligent decision-making methods. While many scholars have already begun utilizing big data technology in the field of enterprise research, such as optimal allocation management of corporate human resources [33], data mining-based decision support systems to enhance marketing strategies [27], and enterprise resource planning [38], data mining technology has become an integral part of the big data application process. It can extract valuable, nontrivial patterns or knowledge from a large amount of incomplete, noisy, fuzzy, and random data. Big data-driven technology now enables the use of a large amount of unstructured textual data that enterprises had previously ignored. However, most research has focused on structured data, overlooking the use of unstructured data. The challenge now is to deal with the massive amount of ignored textual data generated by enterprises, unlock its potential value, and provide auxiliary decision-making for technological innovation [30].

This paper investigates the potential correlation among the influencing factors of a company's technological innovation, based on various forms of data accumulated during the development process. To achieve this, we employ an improved FP-Growth knowledge association rule mining method. By doing so, we can identify the interaction mode and importance of the factors affecting the technological innovation decision-making of enterprises, providing intelligent decision-making reference to improve technological innovation capability.

The paper is organized as follows: Section 2 presents the research background, Section 3 describes the implementation process of the research methodology, Section 4 presents the results and discussion, and the final section concludes the paper.

## 2 Literature review

### 2.1 Technological innovation conceptual background

The concept of enterprise technological innovation originated from Schumpeter's "innovation theory" [45], which believed that innovation is a leading engine of growth, economic development, and social evolution [43]. With the deepening of research, scholars have discussed a lot about the concept of technological innovation capability of enterprises. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) defined technological innovation is the implementation of a new or significantly improved product (good or service), or process, a new marketing method, or a new organizational method in business practices, workplace organization or external relations [5]. Diaconu [13] proposed that most technological innovation of enterprises is complex and cumulative. Enterprises should effectively combine information, human, financial and material resources and need a perfect function distribution system to carry out enterprise innovation activities. Kline and Rosenberg believed [26] that enterprise's technological innovation exists in the entire product life cycle of the enterprise and improve the economic benefits of the enterprise through frequent changes. Hall and BagchiSen [21] proposed that not all enterprises need intensive R&D activities. Enterprises with relatively low R&D intensity can focus on strategic innovation or market innovation, which can also improve innovation performance. Lokshin *et al.* [35] introduced the concept of marketing and organizational innovation, emphasizing the importance of combining different types of resources and reconfiguring various functions to improve enterprises' technological innovation. Barton [4] proposed that management system, technical system, professional staff and corporate values constitute the technological innovation capability of an enterprise. However, there is a lack of integration in his views. Burgelman [8] believed that technological innovation is the sum of a series of characteristics, including the availability of resources and allocation, structural and cultural conditions, the ability to understand industry development, and strategic management capabilities, *etc.* However, its definition focuses on the strategic management

perspective of the enterprise. In general, enterprise's technological innovation is a process, not only in a certain production cycle or stage but also in every production link of an enterprise. Enterprises' technological innovation reflects the strength of comprehensive ability, integrates all aspects of capability, and is a complex, creative and open-ended system with numerous influencing factors. Yet given its characteristics, the technological innovation process is often thought of as random, irregular, or chaotic [10],[17]. Therefore, the research on the technological innovation capability of enterprises has not been able to form a systematic and complete theory, and it is difficult for enterprises to succeed without guidance in the decision-making of technological innovation.

## 2.2 Intelligent decision-making method based on data mining

The birth of big data has changed the way of data storage, processing and analysis for enterprises. The application of big data allows a large amount of noisy and abandoned data to utilize, providing unique insight for enterprises on market analysis, process analysis, risk management and providing accurate decision-making information. Big data analytics is becoming increasingly popular for enterprise's technological innovation decision-making.

For market analysis, many researchers utilize big data technology to capture rich and plentiful data on the consumer in real time and extract consumer activity from big data to develop enterprise marketing strategies [16][15]. Hartmann *et al.*[20] also proposed a derived taxonomy of data-driven business model to help enterprises in start-ups create new business mode, and provide a business perspective by big data analysis. Customer churn prediction is also an important research topic for enterprise's decision-making. Many researches utilize big data analysis to predict customers who are most likely subject to churn in various fields, such as the financial industry and telecom operators based on the unstructured data from web pages, website visits and phone conversation logs [49][31].

There are many scholars who focus on big data application and analysis in operations or supply-chain management, for example, customer behavior analysis [6][12][36], trend analysis [50][40][9], and demand prediction [46][39][41][34]. Big Data Analytics has become the most popular technology in enterprises' process analysis. It can deliver the best possible solution to decision-makers for efficiently handling the problems related to huge data [37].

In addition, for the credit risk assessment, Du *et al.* [14] utilized the BP neural network algorithm and genetic algorithm to build an early warning model of Internet credit risk based on massive data. Li [32] established a SME venture financing risk assessment model and built a risk evaluation index system according to the characteristics of the enterprise production organization, process characteristics, and the development of the socioeconomic and technical environment. It provides risk assessment and risk control for enterprises. Except for the application of big data in enterprises' credit risk assessment, there are many researches on fraud detection, for example, Zhou *et al.* [54] put forward a distributed deep learning model based on Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) for financial fraud behaviors detection in a supply chain, the application of Apache Spark and Hadoop accelerate the processing speed of large dataset.

## 2.3 The application of association rules mining method (ARM)

ARM is also a representative method for enterprises' intelligent management. The researches applied the ARM to each link of the supply chain. Guo *et al.* [19] proposed an intelligent decision support system (DSS) based on the association rule method for the manufacturing industry to support decision-making. Wang and Jin [52] developed an intelligent logistics system based on the association rules data mining method to help decision-makers solve problems in logistics. Sakanai *et al.* [44] proposed a method to identify the operational risk in the supply chain with association rule mining algorithm based on the historical data of enterprises. The ARM method is also widely applied in enterprises' quality management, such as product quality assessment [24], and manufacturing operation process improvement[25]. Regarding financial management, Yao [53] utilized the data mining algorithm to process massive financial accounting data and analyze the financial risk index coefficient of the enterprise by the association rules algorithm. Shang *et al.* [47] also propose a method based on association rule mining to select more representative financial risk indicators for enterprises. In

terms of inventory management, Agarwal [1] imported the association rule mining and clustering into the inventory management of enterprises and the cross-selling effect is brought into the classification of inventories. Agarwal [2] also proposed an inventory model with Multi-level association rule mining to determine the optimum order quantity by frequent items discovering. In addition, ARM also can provide an analysis to enterprises marketing management. Hosseinioun *et al.* [22] constructed a knowledge-driven decision support system based on association rules mining to improve the process of decision-making and management of market resources. Shelke [48] Analysed the product based on transactional data with association rules mining and provide decision support for product sales and customer consumption. In addition, ARM also can provide intelligent decision-making for other fields, such as agriculture [23][51], garment industry [28], education industry [18][3], medical industry [29][7], transportation [11], etc.

Although the big data technology, especially ARM helps enterprises provide intelligent decision-making in market management, risk control, etc., and even extends to other fields. Since the complexity of influencing factors in the field of enterprise technology innovation, there is still no method system to provide intelligent decision-making for enterprises in technological innovation and to provide guidance for the development direction for enterprises.

### 3 Research methodology

This section presents an improved analysis of Knowledge Association using the Semantic Concept model (KASC). The KASC model comprises four parts, as illustrated in Figure 1. Upon preprocessing the text documents, we implemented the Frequent Pattern Growth algorithm to create a Single Linked item header table (SLFP-Growth) and generate association rules. Subsequently, we proposed a semantic interestingness rule filtering method based on the domain ontology semantic concept model to refine the large number of rules. Finally, we provide decision-making advice for enterprises based on the association rules.

Traditionally, association rule mining methods use interestingness as a metric to assess the usefulness and significance of association patterns. However, subjective measurement methods based on prior domain knowledge tend to rely heavily on the user's background knowledge and expected goals, limiting the scope of association results [42]. In contrast, the KASC model leverages the rich semantic knowledge and hierarchical structure of the domain ontology, eliminating the knowledge gap that often arises in the mining and pruning process of traditional association rule methods. The general steps of the KASC model are outlined in Figure 1, and we discuss these steps in the following subsection.

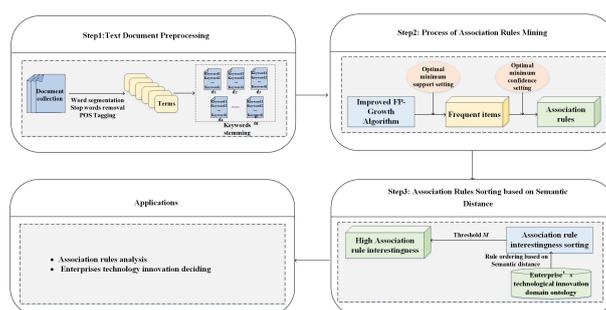


Figure 1: The process of knowledge association analysis based on semantic concept model

#### 3.1 Text Document Preprocessing

The Text document preprocessing is the first step of the KASC, and the process includes four steps, word segmentation, POS selection, stop-word filtering and feature extraction. The Process of text preprocessing is shown in Figure 2.

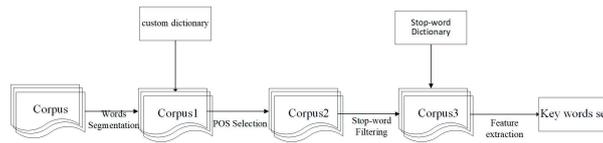


Figure 2: Process of text preprocessing

### 3.1.1 Chinese Segmentation

Firstly, based on the Jieba Tokenfilter, this paper realizes the word segmentation of enterprise’s technological innovation text collection. However, the segmentation result will appear as an ambiguous segmentation problem since a Chinese phrase is wrongly divided into many words. For example, “enterprise technological innovation” was divided into three small-grained words such as “enterprise”, “technological”, and “innovation”. Then, we acquire and optimize the custom dictionary, then apply the dictionary to correct ambiguous segmentation. The custom dictionary defines many special words in the field of enterprise technological innovation, such as “enterprise technological innovation”, “product innovation”, “innovation mechanism”, etc., which can help to improve the segmentation effect.

### 3.1.2 POS Selection

This paper utilizes the automatic part-of-speech tagging with Jieba. It selects the nouns of the text collection which are the most representative important for semantic information in the field of enterprise’s technological innovation. Hence, selecting the nouns and words similar to nouns as the research object, such as the verb with noun function, the adjective with noun function, *etc.*

### 3.1.3 Stop-word Filtering

This paper removes the useless words from the text collection of enterprise technological innovation. We built a stop-word dictionary which contains many meaningless words, such as modal particles. The stop-word filtering can help to reduce the size of the indexing structure considerably.

### 3.1.4 Feature extraction

This paper utilizes the term frequency (TF) to rank the frequency of words in the text collection according to their importance. We count the number of occurrences of each term in the document, filter the word whose occurrences are less than the threshold  $\theta$  and obtain the key words set. The calculation formulas of TF are present as the following formula. The term frequency  $tf(t_i, d_j)$  represents the number of occurrences of  $t_i$  in a document  $d_j$ .

$$tf(t_i, d_j) = \frac{n_{ij}}{\sum_k n_{kj}},$$

## 3.2 SLFP-Growth Algorithm

The traditional Frequent Pattern Growth (FP-Growth) algorithm is shown in Figure 3. It needs to scan the database first to get the support counts of all frequent itemsets, delete the items lower than the minimum support threshold, and sort them in descending order of support. Then create the FP pattern tree and item header table according to the order of frequent itemsets in the database. After establishing the FP tree, mining the conditional pattern base from the bottom of the item header table and the frequent itemsets is obtained by recursively mining from the conditional pattern base. Although the FP-Growth algorithm has a faster operation speed than other association algorithms, it requires a lot of time to generate conditional pattern trees and traverse mining patterns and requires a large storage space. Therefore, this paper combines the Single Linked item header table with the Frequent Pattern Growth algorithm (SLFP-Growth), which including transaction names, count statistics, node links, etc. We store frequent items that satisfy the minimum support threshold in the

table, and then mining frequent itemsets by traversing the item header table. The proposed SLFP-Growth algorithm does not need to generate and traverse the FP condition tree like the traditional method, which saves computation time and memory consumption.

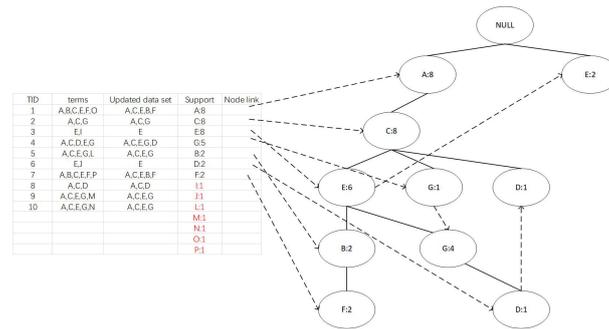


Figure 3: The item header table with first data inserting

### 3.2.1 The steps of the improved SLFP-Growth Algorithm

The improved SLFP-Growth Algorithm mainly includes two steps:

1) Scan the database first to get the support counts of all frequent itemsets, delete the items in the original dataset that are less than the minimum support threshold, and sort the itemsets in the dataset in descending order of support.

2) Scan the sorted database again and insert the database items recursively into the item header table.

The steps of the improved SLFP-Growth Algorithm are described as follows.

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#### Algorithm 1 SLFP-Growth Algorithm.

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**Input:** preprocessed dataset  $D = \{d_i | j = 1, 2, \dots, m\}$ , the dataset contains  $N$  terms  $C = \{c_i | i = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , domain ontology  $O$ , minimum support  $minsup$ ;

**Output:** frequent pattern sets and association rules;

- 1: Scan the preprocessed text dataset and calculate the support for all 1 item sets  $I_1$ ;
  - 2: Filter and select  $I_1 \geq minsup$
  - 3: Sort and reorder the text dataset in descending order according to  $I_1$  element support;
  - 4: Scan the reordered text dataset, read the itemsets in each text in the dataset and save them in the item header table;
  - 5: **for**  $i = 1; i < m; i ++$  **do** Scan the text database,  $p$  points to frequent itemsets; //  $i$  is the text reading sequence,  $p$  is the node link to the frequent itemset,  $m$  is the total text;
  - 6: **end for**
  - 7: **while**  $p \neq Null$  **do**,
  - 8: **end while**
  - 9: **if**  $p \rightarrow next == Null$ , **then**, **end**;
  - 10: **else** Scan frequent items
  - 11: **end if**
  - 12: **if** frequent items already exist in the item header table **then**,  $count + 1$ ;
  - 13: **else** Generate new node and insert to the item header table,  $count = 1$ ;
  - 14: **end if**
  - 15: Filter the frequent itemsets that satisfy the minimum support, construct the possible association rules by recursive iteration for each frequent itemset, and calculate the rule confidence and filter out the rules satisfying the minimum confidence.
  - 16: **if**  $support \geq minsup$  **then return**  $frequentset$
  - 17: **end if**
  - 18: **if**  $conf \geq minconf$  **then return**  $frequentPatterns$
  - 19: **end if**
-

Table 1: The text database of enterprise’s technological innovation

Text set	Keywords
Doc1	Industry Type, Core business, Technological innovation, R&D expenditures Sales revenue
Doc2	Company name, Industry Type, Core business, R&D expenditures, Sales revenue
Doc3	Company name, Core business
Doc4	Company name, Industry Type, Technological innovation
Doc5	Industry Type, Core business, Technological innovation, R&D expenditures, Sales revenue

Table 2: Updated text database based on frequent item support

TID	Items	Support	Reordered dataset
1	Industry Type, Core business, Technological innovation, R&D expenditures, Sales revenue	Core business:4	Core business, Industry Type, R&D expenditures, Sales revenue, Technological innovation
2	Company name, Industry Type, Core business, R&D expenditures, Sales revenue	Industry Type:4	Core business, Industry Type, R&D expenditures, Company name, Sales revenue
3	Company name, Core business	R&D expenditures:3	Core business, Company name
4	Company name, Industry Type, Technological innovation	Company name:3	Industry Type, Company name, Technological innovation
5	Industry Type, Core business, Technological innovation, R&D expenditures, Sales revenue	Sales revenue:3 Technological innovation:3	Core business, Industry Type, R&D expenditures, Sales revenue, Technological innovation

### 3.2.2 An example of SLFP-Growth algorithm realization

The following is an example we utilized part of data in the same database to describe the SLFP-Growth Algorithm in detail for demonstration. Table 1 shows the key itemsets of the original textual database after text preprocessing. Each document is equivalent to a transaction, and the collection of all keywords in the documents is equivalent to the itemsets in the transaction database. Scan the items in the database and count the support of frequent. Since the minimum support threshold is 2, the itemsets in the example all meet the minimum threshold for retention. Then sort the itemsets in descending order according to the support counts, as shown in Table 2.

Create the item header table and insert each itemset of reordered text database in turn according to the transaction name, support count, and node link, as shown in Figure 4 to Figure 8. Delete the frequent items with support less than 2 according to the item header table, and mine the frequent item set, the final result of frequent itemsets as shown in Table 3.

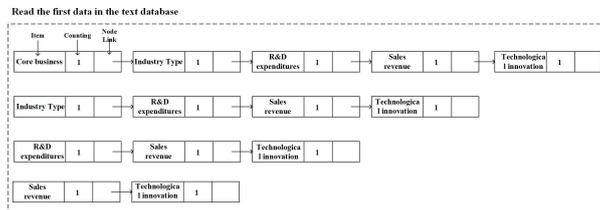


Figure 4: The item header table with first data inserting

### 3.3 Association rules ranking method based on semantic concept model

Domain ontology has rich professional background knowledge, and with the help of a large number of current formal knowledge ontology structures, the implicit relations between concepts can be discovered. We propose a semantic interestingness rule filtering method that combines the similarity measure between domain ontology concepts and the traditional interestingness measure method to filter a large number of rules generated by association rule mining methods. The proposed method

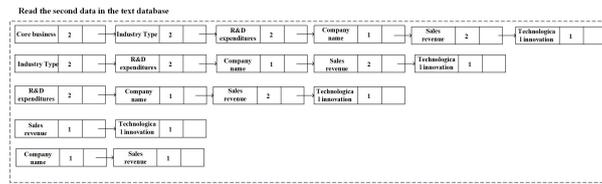


Figure 5: The item header table with second data inserting

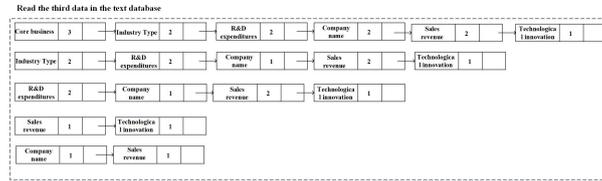


Figure 6: The item header table with third data inserting

ranks the generated association rules based on the conceptual distance of the domain ontology hierarchy. In the hierarchy of domain ontology structure, the shorter the semantic distance between concepts, the greater the semantic similarity between concepts, and the more related the two concepts are. Instead, the greater the semantic distance between concepts, the less related the concepts, and the more interesting the discovered rules will be.

The Figure 9 shows part of enterprise technological innovation domain ontology. If the semantic distance between concept  $C_1$  and concept  $C_2$  is smaller than the semantic distance between concept  $C_1$  and concept  $C_{41}$ , the interestingness of association rules generated between concepts  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  will be less than that generated by concept  $C_1$  and  $C_{41}$ . Therefore, the proposed association rule ranking method based on domain ontology semantic conceptual distance can rank the generated association rules by interest and extract the most interesting and relevant rules.

### 3.3.1 The realization of association rules ranking method

We propose a semantic conceptual model based on domain ontology to calculate the semantic distance and semantic similarity between concepts. The concept semantic distance calculation is shown as follows. There are three conditions: (1) when the concept nodes  $c_i$  and  $c_j$  are the same concept, the semantic distance is 0; (2) when there is a direct path between concept nodes  $c_i$  and  $c_j$ , the semantic distance is the path weight value between the two concepts; (3) when there is an indirect path between concept nodes  $c_i$  and  $c_j$ , the semantic distance is sum of the path weights connecting the two concept nodes.

$$Dist(c_i, c_j) = \begin{cases} 0; & c_i \equiv c_j \\ w[sub(c_i, c_j)]; & c_i \rightarrow c_j \\ \sum_{c \in sPath(c_i, c_j)} wc[sub(c_i, c_j)]; & \text{others} \end{cases}$$

The calculation of path weight for each node connected to each other in the domain ontology is shown in as follows, where  $K$  is a predefined factor,  $K \geq 1$  represents the rate of the weight decreases

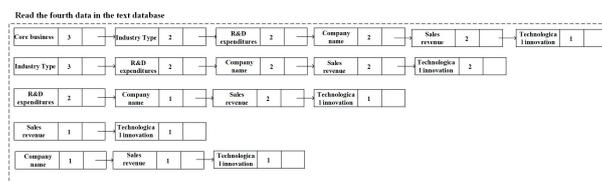


Figure 7: The item header table with fourth data inserting



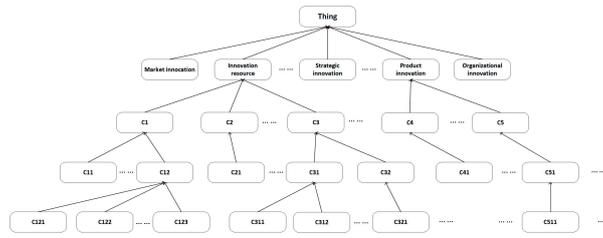


Figure 9: The part of structure of enterprises’ technological innovation domain ontology

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**Algorithm 2** The realization of association rules ranking method

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**Input:** ontology  $O$ , frequent pattern set  $N$ ;

**Output:** association rules;

- 1: Loading domain ontology  $O$ ;
  - 2: for  $i=1, j=1$   $Dist(c_i, c_j) = \sum_{c \in sPath(c_i, c_j)} \frac{1}{2K^{depth(c_j)}} + 1$  //Calculating the semantic distance between itemset based on domain ontology;
  - 3:  $SemIntere = \frac{\sum_{1 < i, j < n} Dist(c_i, c_j)}{\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} k}$ ; //Calculating semantic interest based on itemset semantic distance;
  - 4: Sort rules in descending order based on semantic interest, take Top  $M$  association rules;
  - 5: End. obtained  $M$  association rules
- 

## 4 Results and Discussion

This paper collects the information related to technological innovation of more than 400 enterprises in Beijing, and conducts an empirical study with these enterprises as an example. According to the KASC method proposed in this paper, including data collection and preprocessing, association rule mining, association rule filtering, we obtain the key influencing factors of technological innovation decision-making of enterprises in Beijing and the potential correlation between the influencing factors.

### 4.1 Experimental Datasets and Parameter Setting

The experimental data are provided by the Beijing Municipal Commission of Economic Informatization and mainly consist of the enterprise’s background (see Table 4), the development of enterprise technological innovation activities, enterprise innovation projects, enterprise organizational structure, enterprise main products and services, enterprise profitability. After data preprocessing, there are 867 valid texts, and the overall data size is about 20M. The experimental operating environment is the Windows 10 system, 2.70 GHz core processor, 8.0 GB memory, and Python 3.6.2.

### 4.2 Evaluation Measures

In order to verify the performance and efficiency of the proposed KASC method, we compare the Apriori algorithm, the FP-Growth algorithm and the improved KASC algorithm in terms of the operation time, memory usage and the number of generated rules with the same dataset in different minimum support setting. The experimental results are as follows.

We compare the performance of the Apriori algorithm, the FP-Growth algorithm and the SLFP-Growth Algorithm in terms of operation time and memory usage by setting different minimum support. The different minimum support setting and the performance with three algorithms is shown in Table

Table 4: Frequent itemsets

Area of focus	Format	Number
Enterprise profiles	.doc	388
Enterprise technical and financial reports	.xlsx	212
Enterprises products	.txt	131
Enterprises rewards	.pdf	136

Table 5: Algorithm performance comparison

Minimum support	Apriori algorithm		FP-Growth algorithm		KASC algorithm	
	Operation time (s)	Memory usage (Mb)	Operation time (s)	Memory usage (Mb)	Operation time (s)	Memory usage (Mb)
0.1	110	4070	108	4557	93	3797
0.2	12	1655	11	1654	9	1378
0.23	0.47	200	0.47	199	0.33	155
0.25	0.07	156	0.05	155	0.03	129
0.27	0.05	153	0.04	154	0.02	128
0.3	0.03	153	0.04	153	0.02	128

Table 6: The number of rules generated under different support

Minimum support	Minimum confidence	Number of rules
0.1	1.0	3514642
0.2	0.8	1417087
0.23	0.8	58481
0.25	0.8	2544
0.27	0.8	14
0.3	0.8	1

5. It can be seen from the Figure 10, The FP-Growth algorithm is slightly faster than the Apriori algorithm, and the KASC algorithm has the fastest operation time among the three algorithms. The comparison of memory usage as shown in Figure 11, the FP-Growth algorithm has the largest memory usage, followed by the Apriori algorithm, and the KASC algorithm takes the least amount of memory. Therefore, the performance of KASC algorithm is better than the traditional Apriori algorithm and the FP-Growth method.

As can be seen in Table 6, the number of association rules generated by the three algorithms are the same, and the higher of the thresholds of minimum support and minimum confidence, the less association rules are generated. Increasing the minimum support will significantly reduce the number of generated rules, however, blindly increase the thresholds may lead to the useful information is ignored. For example, when the minimum support is 0.27 and 0.3, and the minimum confidence is 0.8, the number of generated rules is only 14 and 1. On the other hand, if the threshold of the parameter is set too low, the algorithm will generate a large number of association rules. For example, when the minimum support is 0.1 and 0.2, and the minimum confidence is 1.0 and 0.8, the generated association rules are all in the millions, and it is difficult to extract useful and interesting association rules among them. Therefore, in order to obtain an appropriate number of association rules, we set the threshold of minimum support is 0.25, the minimum confidence is 0.8, and the number of generated association rules is 2544.

We rank the generated association rules based on the domain ontology semantic distance, and select the most interesting rules according to the threshold of semantic interest . The value range of is [0-1]. When the value of closer to 1, which represents the higher interest in the generated association rules, and the fewer generated number of association rules. Therefore, in order to select association

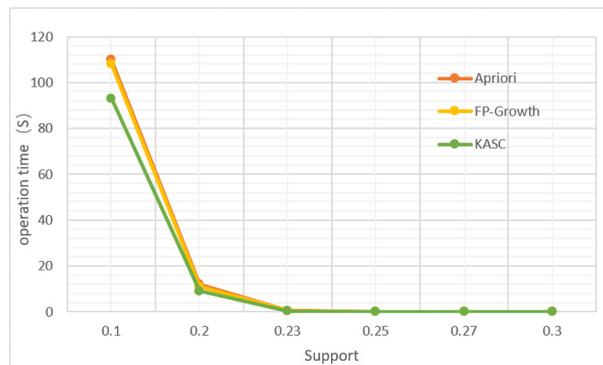


Figure 10: Comparison of computing time of three algorithms under different support degrees

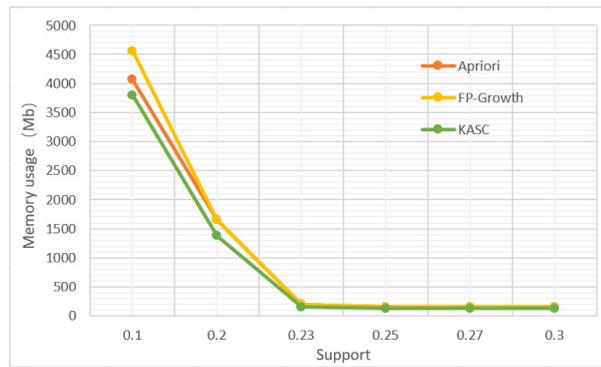


Figure 11: Comparison of memory usage of three algorithms under different support degrees

rules with high interest, we set the threshold of 0.5 and filter out association rules when . At last, the number of generated association rules is 1338.

### 4.3 Result Analysis and Discussion

#### 4.3.1 Enterprise technological innovation decision making knowledge association result visualization

The structure of the enterprise’s technological innovation domain ontology is shown in Figure 12. We utilize the KASC algorithm based on the domain ontology to mining the association rules for enterprise technological innovation decision making and the result is shown in Figure 13, Figure 14, and Figure 15. The Scatter plots can display the entire generated association rules as shown in Figure 13 and can identify thresholds includes of support, confidence, and lift. The association graph as shown in Figure 14 can display all the generated association rules and display the relationship between the nodes. The heat map can display part of information of association rules and confidence. The color corresponds to the confidence level. As shown in Figure 15, the more orange and lighter the color, the higher the confidence value.

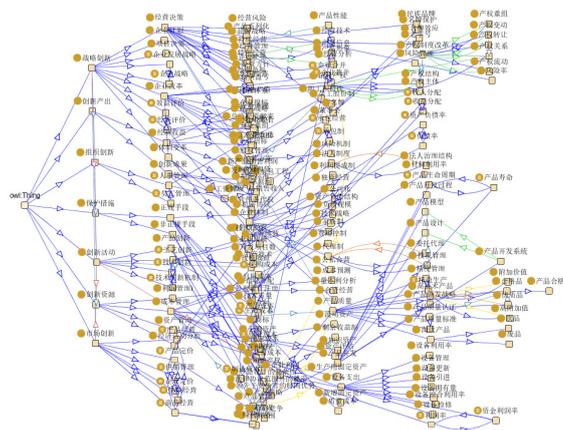


Figure 12: The structure of ontology concepts in the field of enterprises’ technological innovation

#### 4.3.2 Enterprise technological innovation decision making knowledge association result analysis

It can be seen from Figure 13, Figure 14, and Figure 15, the influencing factors related to enterprise technological innovation are interrelated and interact with each other. We analyze all generated association rules, and shown top 19 association rules with high semantic interest in Table 7 which can give more detailed information. The first association rule in the table shows the influence of invention patents and technical research on enterprises technological innovation. Invention patents belong

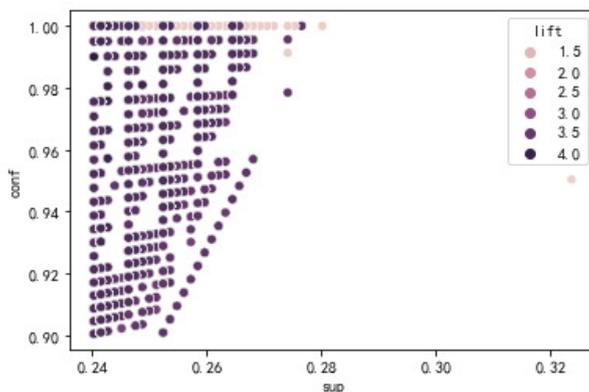


Figure 13: Association rule scatter plot

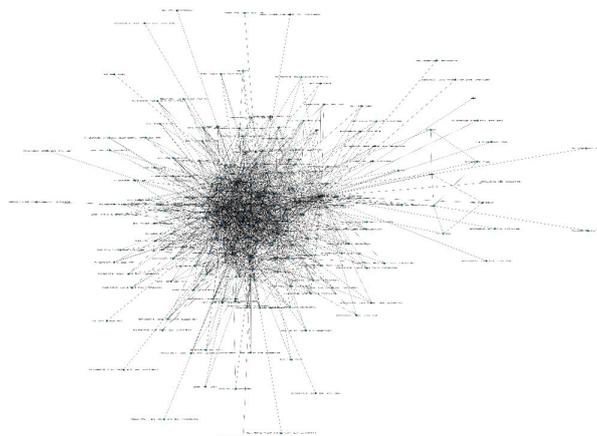


Figure 14: The relationship of node in association rule

to innovation output, and technical research belongs to manufacturing capability, which reflects the relationship between innovation output, manufacturing capacity and technological innovation of enterprises. Manufacturing capacity and innovation output will affect the decision-making of enterprises in technological innovation. The second association rule indicates the impact of new product design and research and development (R&D) on the technological innovation of enterprises. New product design and R&D belong to product manufacturing capabilities, that is, manufacturing capabilities will directly affect the decision-making of technological innovation of enterprises. The third association rule display the core product development cycle and the number of technology development projects has impact on new product and sales revenue. The core product development cycle and the number of technology development projects belong to the influencing factor of manufacturing capacity and technological output, the new product and sales revenue belong to the influencing factor of innovation revenue. Therefore, manufacturing capacity and technological output have a direct impact on the innovation revenue of enterprises.

We also found potential associations between many factors that affect technological innovation decisions of enterprises through the knowledge association mining method, such as the role and impact of intellectual property on sales revenue. The intellectual property belongs to the influence factor of protection measures, and sales revenue belongs to the innovation income factor. The protection measures of intellectual property have impact on the sales revenue of enterprises. The fifth association rule reflects the relationship between the application of new materials, technological innovation and sales revenue. The application of new materials belongs to the impact factor of product integration innovation, and the decision on the application of product integration innovation in enterprise technology will directly affect sales revenue. The sixth rule shows the role of university-industry cooperation (UIC) on enterprise technology and product R&D. UIC is an influencing factor of innovation strat-



Table 7: Association rules with high semantic interest

No	Association rules	Semintere
1	Invention patent, technical research → technological innovation	0.98
2	New product design,R&D → technological innovation	0.96
3	Core product development cycle,Number of technology development projects → New product,Sales revenue	0.96
4	intellectual property → Sales revenue	0.94
5	new material,technological innovation → Sales revenue	0.94
6	UIC → core techniques,product development	0.93
7	R&D personnel → product design	0.93
8	New product → market share	0.92
9	Utility model,Invention patent → Product design,technological innovation	0.92
10	management system → R&D,Technology innovation system	0.91
11	use of funds → resource management	0.88
12	intellectual property → Invention patent,laboratory	0.88
13	Intellectual property → Industrialization,technological innovation	0.87
14	R&D expenditure → Sales revenue, main products	0.86
15	R&D expenditure,Sales revenue, main products → Industrial output	0.84
16	technology import,product manufacture → technology development,Industrial output	0.83
17	brand influence → Marketing	0.82
18	incentive mechanism → talent management	0.79
19	knowledge sharing,enterprise culture → organizational management	0.76

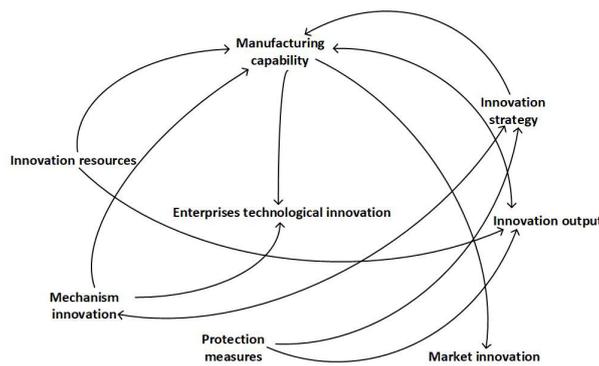


Figure 16: The potential correlation between the influencing factors of enterprises’ technological innovation capability

### 4.3.3 Discussion

Based on the association rules with high semantic interest presented in Table 7, we can analyze the semantic interpretation that corresponds to each association rule and explore the potential relationships between the influencing factors that affect enterprise technological innovation decision-making. There are seven main factors that affect technological innovation: innovation resources, manufacturing capacity, innovation strategy, mechanism innovation, market innovation, protection measures, and innovation output. The potential correlations between these factors can be roughly depicted in Figure 16. From Figure 16, we can observe the modes of interaction and influence between the influencing factors that affect enterprise technological innovation, which are mainly manifested in the following aspects:

- (1) Direct impact of factors on enterprise technological innovation. Mechanism innovation and innovation resources have a greater impact on enterprise technological innovation, while manufacturing capacity also plays a significant role. There exists a positive correlation among innovation resources, manufacturing capabilities, and enterprise technological innovation. The more resources an enterprise invests in technological innovation and the stronger its product manufacturing capability, the greater

the impact on its technological innovation. This is because technological innovation requires not only a substantial initial capital investment, but also a large number of high-quality and innovative R&D personnel, as well as efficient human resource management methods, strong financial support, and production capacity. Therefore, these factors become important guarantees for improving the technological innovation of enterprises.

(2) Potential cross-action and influence modes among influencing factors. There are potential interactions among mechanism innovation, innovation strategy, protection measures, innovation output, and enterprise technological innovation. For example, the interaction mode between mechanism innovation, innovation strategy, manufacturing capability, and technological innovation capability explains how effective enterprise organization management mechanisms, talent incentive mechanisms, and integrated resource allocation have an important impact on an enterprise's manufacturing and technological innovation capability. In addition, protection measures also have a potential impact on innovation strategy and innovation output. Intellectual property protection effectively promotes the progress of enterprise technological innovation, protects the rights of enterprises, and supports the output of innovation achievements. It also plays a role in coordinating and allocating enterprise resources, which is conducive to the success probability of high-quality technology development.

Based on the analysis above of the interaction and influence mode between the influencing factors of enterprises' technological innovation, it is clear that the technological innovation and development of enterprises require not only increased investment in R&D and leveraging of internal and external resources, but also improved organizational management and marketing capabilities to increase the likelihood of successfully developing innovative technological products. Additionally, external support is necessary, such as a resource integration platform for industry-university-research cooperation and government measures for intellectual property protection to improve the effective acquisition of social capital and utilization of knowledge in technological innovation.

## 5 Conclusion

In this paper, we propose an improved knowledge association analysis based on the semantic concept model (KASC). Our method combines the Single Linked item header table with the Frequent Pattern Growth (SLFP-Growth) algorithm to generate knowledge association rules. We also use the constructed enterprise technology innovation domain ontology and the semantic distance calculation method to rank the association rules.

Our proposed approach addresses three key issues. Firstly, the performance of the SLFP-Growth algorithm is superior to the traditional Apriori algorithm and FP-Growth algorithm in terms of operation time and memory usage on the same textual dataset. This solves the issue of the traditional algorithm's time and space complexity, and our SLFP-Growth algorithm is simpler and more efficient. Secondly, the proposed KASC model leverages the rich semantic knowledge and hierarchical structure of the domain ontology, eliminating the knowledge gap that often arises in the mining and pruning process of traditional association rule methods. Thirdly, based on the technological innovation data provided by 400 enterprises in Beijing, we use our proposed KASC method to discover the potential correlation and interaction modes between the influencing factors of enterprises' technological innovation. The intelligent analysis results can provide reference for enterprises on technological innovation decision-making.

In the future, we suggest continuing this research in several directions. Firstly, other methods such as text clustering methods should be integrated into the evaluation index system construction to provide enterprises with technological innovation decision-making. Secondly, future research may consider using a general ontology that can be applied to more fields.

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## Author contributions

Qianqian Zhang: Conceptualization, Methodology, Formal analysis, Writing-Original Draft. Guining Geng: Project administration, Funding acquisition. Qun Tu: Software, Writing-Review and Editing.

## Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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