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Movie Recommender Systems: Types and Modeling

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Abstract

Recommender systems are playing a major role in the information filtering to the users. Recently there are different recommender models developed for various artificial intelligence, machine learning and data analytics applications. This research focuses on the types of movie recommender systems and building a collaborative filtering model using Python.

Keywords: Recommender systems; Information filtering; Collaborative filtering; Machine learning; Data analytics; Artificial intelligence

Introduction

Recommender systems are filtering the required information to the users based on their interests, styles of learning, and other primary characteristics. The recommender systems such as Collaborative Filtering (CF) are also developed for movie applications [1,2]. The recommendation systems are implemented by the companies for the following main criterion:

A. Improving the retention: The users choices are continuously catered to make loyal customers

B. Increasing the sales: To increase the sales 10% to 50% due to accurate "You must also like" recommendations of the products.

C. Form habits: To provide accuracy in the contents results in developing strong habits, customers usage patterns.

D. Accelerate work: Time saving up to 80% due to specific recommendations and to support the research work.

Types of Movie Recommender Systems

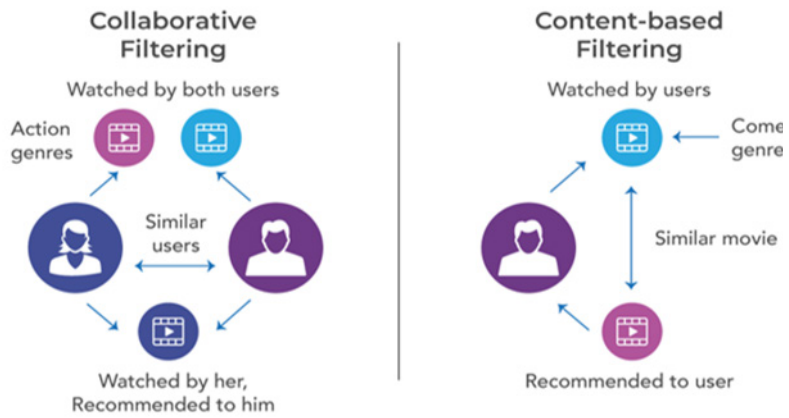

Figure 1: Types of movie recommenders.

The types of movie recommenders systems are sketched in (Figure 1) with CF and content-based filtering [3,4]. Companies such as Amazon, Pandora, and Netflix are using analytics to predict customer behaviors and provide recommendations. The companies such as Amazon, Pandora, Twitter, and Netflix track and how they use this data are sketched in (Figure 2-5).

Figure 2: Amazon recommender.

Figure 3: Pandora recommender.

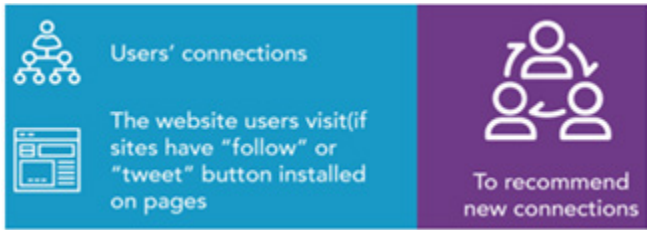

Figure 4: Twitter recommender.

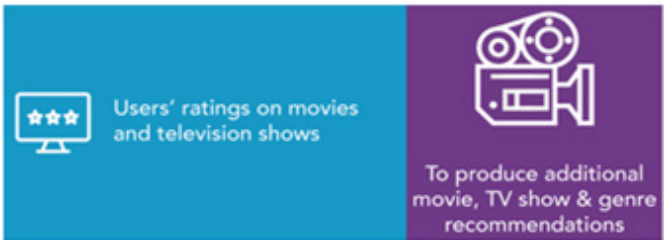

Figure 5: Netflix recommender.

CF & Limitations

The types of CF are user CF and item CF. For the two users A and B, consider the number of movies watched with their ratings (Figure 6): Here both users have common movies and have rated similarly assuming that both users have similar styles of watching movies. The recommender will recommend the movies (1,2,5) to B and the movies (6,7,8) to A. The similarity between the users can be measured using Pearson's correlation. For the positive value of similarity, the like and ratings of user A are recommended to user B and vice versa. For the negative value of similarity, no recommendation will be the result as the users are not alike.

User A		User B	
Movie	Rating	Movie	Rating
1	–	3	5/5
2	–	4	1/5
3	5/5	6	–
4	1/5	7	–
5	–	8	–

Figure 6: CF & limitations.

Limitations of user CF

a. One can watch specific movies that no one else watches which results in no recommendation.

b. Not enough ratings to match new movies.

c. For new users, the user is not rated and watched many movies and it results in users mapping problems.

Building a user CF in python

The user CF model is developed in Python with the following steps:

a. Install and import the surprise package.

b. Load the instance ml-100k.

c. Split the data into training and testing.

d. Apply the KNN algorithm to the training set.

e. Display the 25 best neighbors to the user with ratings.

f. Predict the rating for a user not yet watched the movie.

g. Find the expected ratings.

h. Test using the testing dataset for every movie.

The Python implementation is as follows: (Figure 7)

```
# Import specific libraries
from surprise import KNNWithMeans, Dataset, accuracy, surprise.model_selection, train_test_split
#load the movielens-100k dataset  UserId :: MovieID :: Rating ::Timestamp
data=Dataset.load_builtin('ml-100k')

# Use user based true/false to switch between user-based or item-based CF
trainset,testset=train_test_split(data,test_size=.15)
algo=KNNWithMeans(k=50,sim_options= {'name':'pearson_baseline','user_based':True})
algo.fit(trainset)

#Query for speicific predictions
uid=str(196) #raw user id
lid=str(302) #raw item id

# Predict for specific users and items
pred=algo.predict(uid,lid,verbose=True)

#Run the trained model against the test set
test_pred=algo.test(testset)
test_pred
```

Figure 7: The Python implementation.

Conclusion & Future Work

This research analyzed the types of movie recommender systems and developed a CF model using Python for movie applications. In the future, different soft computing strategies can be used for the implementation to obtain better accuracy [5-10].

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