



# Movie recommender system with metaheuristic artificial bee

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## Abstract

Recommender systems are information retrieval tool that allocates accurate recommendations to the specific users. Collaborative movie recommender systems support users in accessing their popular movies by suggesting similar users or movies from their past common ratings. In this research work, a hybrid recommender system has been proposed which utilized k-means clustering algorithm with bio-inspired artificial bee colony (ABC) optimization technique and applied to the Movielens dataset. Our proposed system has been described systematic manner, and the subsequent results have been demonstrated. The proposed system (ABC-KM) is also compared with existing approaches, and the consequences have been examined. Estimation procedures such as precision, mean absolute error, recall, and accuracy for the movie recommender system delivered improved results for ABC-KM collaborative movie recommender system. The experiment outcomes on Movielens dataset established that the projected system provides immense achievement regarding scalability, performance and delivers accurate personalized movie recommendations by reducing cold start problem. As far as our best research knowledge, our proposed recommender system is novel and delivers effective fallouts when compared with already existing systems.

**Keywords** Recommender systems · Collaborative filtering · K-mean · Artificial bee colony

## 1 Introduction

Recommender systems are effective data filtering tools that are responsible for handling online data and information overload [1–5]. The determination of a recommender system is to create recommendations automatically of things for users preferences. Movie suggestion is the most broadly used interfaces united with web-based portals that intention is to support online library [6–8]. The mainstream of current systems is based on a collaborative filtering (CF) methodology that has been magnificently established [9–15]. It accumulates assessments of films given by an individual and then endorses specific films to the specific user. However, most of the time, recommender systems are suffered from integral restrictions such as reduced scalability and cold start complications [3, 16–19]. We have developed a hybrid collaborative movie recommender

system with improved movie prediction accuracy. In our collaborative movie recommender system, we have employed k-mean and artificial bee colony (ABC) to design an effective ABC-KM-based movie recommender systems. The collaborative algorithms are based on similar users and the person who has similar tastes as their friends have. Present approaches for recommendation systems are either memory based or model based. Model-based techniques use a set of constraints, and these constraints can be reduced using basic reduction techniques. Model-based techniques handle the sparsity issues in a better way than memory-based technologies [20, 21]. User-based collaborative filtering is functional on Movielens and other e-commerce applications [22, 23]. ABC is the most recent optimization procedure that encourages detecting the smart foraging conduct of a honey bee swarm and that is why it is used in research work for optimization [24–27]. ABC is also a bio-inspired algorithm, and bio-inspired means the intelligent algorithms which are motivated by the biological working of bees and apply in optimization and computing [28–33]. There are numerous domains in which ABC has been applied for better results. The various domains are such as image processing, computer and

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sensor networks, power distribution, data clustering, industrial engineering, mechanical engineering, and protein structure. The purpose of this research work is to employ user-based collaborative filtering with ABC algorithm and obtain the results by computing similarity in a set of users with Pearson similarity on the set of users. Sometimes, user-item matrix with collaborative filtering can be enormous and leads to the sparse and cold start problems [34]. Collaborative filtering-based recommender systems are mostly affected by cold start problem, in which new users will need to rate an adequate number of items to permit the system to detect their choices accurately and then the only system will deliver trustworthy recommendations. This paper is arranged as Sect. 2 explains the survey work that was performed on collaborative recommender system and clustering-based collaborative endorsements. The suggested system is named as a k-mean-ABC movie recommender system and explained in Sect. 3. In Sect. 4, experiment fallouts performed on Movielens dataset are described and finally summarization of this article with and the upcoming work is highlighted in Sect. 5.

## 2 Related work

Recommender systems (RS) are most effective knowledge management systems that help users to filter unusable data and contribute to avoiding information overloading and deliver personalized ideas [35, 36]. Currently, CF is the furthestmost operative procedure engaged by movie recommender systems, which is operated by the nearest-neighbor method [37–42]. There are two most popular techniques adopted by CF. Some authors improved memory-based procedures for recommender systems by determining the data sparsity issue in which they utilized support vector machine that computed likenesses between items and enhanced basic memory-based technique [43]. The deficiency of effective approaches for searching the right content may lead to a continuous damage of users, and the authors provided a study on this issue [44]. Computational intelligence has shown a significant impact in the field of data mining and e-commerce applications. In similar scenario, artificial immune system has shown significant influence on recommendation systems. Authors also proposed new mathematical expressions for analyzing immune network by utilizing Pearson correlation coefficient for Movielens and EachMovie datasets [45]. The k-mean algorithm has been widely used clustering approach in data mining [46, 47]. A hybrid movie recommender system was offered by utilizing k-means clustering and genetic algorithms (GAs) with principal component analysis (PCA) on Movielens dataset [7]. A competent incremental collaborative filtering recommender system

was presented which was based on a weighted clustering method [48]. Computational intelligence also showed a significant role in various interdisciplinary environments like movie-based collaborative recommender systems. A collaborative filtering framework was proposed which assimilates both subjective and independent knowledge to produce recommendations for the user that solved the problem of sparsity and the cold start problem by using Movielens datasets [49]. ABC is the furthestmost introduced optimization procedure that checks the brilliant expression of a honey bee swarm. We have utilized swarm optimization procedure in the proposed collaborative movie recommender system which showed the better and improved results when compared to the existing methods [24, 25].

## 3 k-means-artificial bee colony collaborative filtering framework

To overcome the limitations of a collaborative recommender system, we presented a hybrid cluster and optimization-based technique to advance movie prediction correctness. Our motive is to design a unified model solution that incorporates user ratings from the Movielens dataset for predictions. We used K-mean and ABC as optimization procedure and then apply to Movielens dataset for improved efficient recommender systems. Primarily, k-means clustering algorithm is applied to Movielens dataset for clustering of users into different clusters. The clusters are selected randomly at initial then users are checked one by one by calculating the differences in their ratings and the centroid of the clusters, and if their difference is lowest, then the user is assigned to the cluster to which they are nearby. However, at this instant not assure that each user has been assigned to the correct cluster with the lowest difference of centroid. So each user's distance is compared to cluster mean and displace the users according to the minimum distance from any cluster's mean. Now, this iterative repositioning would now continue from this new partition until no more rearrangements occur. After a point, if no more relocations occurred then that point is the point of completion of the clustering process. The k-means algorithm's necessary steps are presented in Fig. 1.

Next ABC algorithm is employed to the resultant of the k-means procedure for optimizing the results. The cluster is prepared but not optimized, so a function is developed, called as fitness function that helps in improving the user's centroid distances. Fitness function transforms the previous centroids for a limited number of iteration (i.e., relocation of centroids to users). Then, it classifies the users again by calculating the minimum centroid differences or applying k-means again. An artificial bee colony optimization

**Fig. 1** Presentation of K-mean procedure

1. For clustering, Put K marks into the area characterized by the users. These marks symbolize a primary set of centroids.
2. Allocate individual user to the collection (cluster) that has the nearby centroid.
3. When totally users have been allocated, recomputed the locations of K centroids for the separate cluster.
4. Replicate stages 2 and 3 til no development in centroids. Group (clusters) is created.

algorithm may be described by using the following three idealized rules [24].

Initialize.

Repeat.

(a) Put the working bees on the nourishment bases in the memory;

(b) Put the observer bees on the nourishment bases in the memory;

(c) Dispatch the pathfinders to the hunt area for noticing new nourishment sources.

Till (necessities are met).

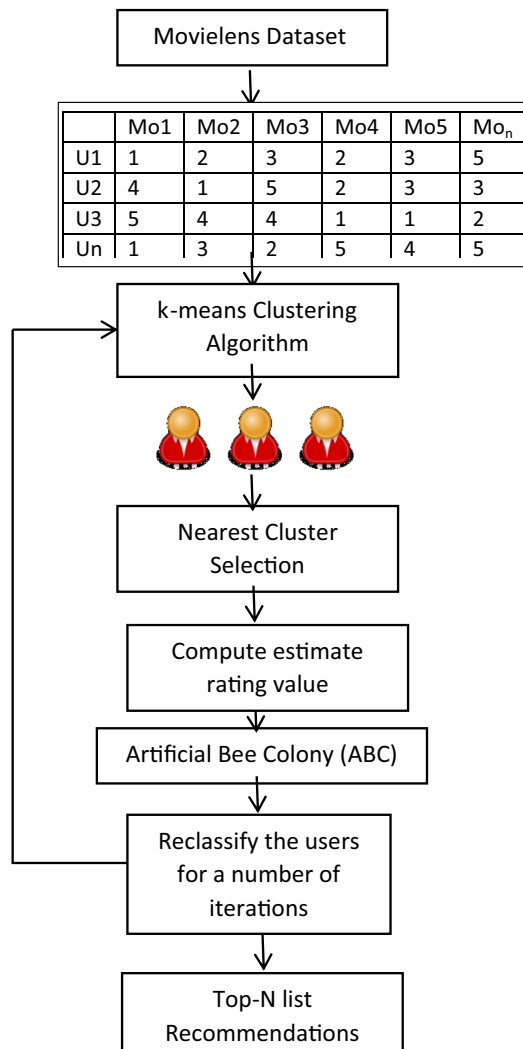
**Fig. 2** Overview of proposed movie recommender system framework

Figure 2 shows a flowchart that displays the stepwise process that how artificial bee colony algorithm is applied. Figure 2 shows the above-described approach, which is being implemented to the Movielens dataset. The Movielens dataset is recorded by reading the file, and dataset is divided into clusters by using k-means clustering algorithm which results in k clusters so that each cluster has a centroid. The space between the user and the centroid is computed, and the user is placed in the cluster whose centroid is the least distance away from him. When all such users have been relocated, the centroids are repositioned, and the new positions are also calculated. Consequently, the estimated rating that the user will give is calculated, and framework is optimized using artificial bee colony algorithm. We have calculated various evaluation expressions for expecting the truth of recommender system such as precision, MAE, recall and accuracy that are acceptable and efficient when compared with already existing methodologies.

ABC determines a community of preliminary resolution vectors with superior results and neighbor exploration methodology, and then continuously proceeds by reducing an objective function (Fig. 3). The objective function  $f(\vec{z})$  should be reduced by detecting vector  $(\vec{z})$ .

$$\text{minimize } f(\vec{z}), (\vec{z}) = (z_1, z_2, \dots, z_i, \dots, z_{n-1}, z_n) \in R^n \quad (1)$$

which is controlled by the succeeding similarities and equivalences:

$$li \leq zi \leq ui, i = 1, \dots, n \quad (2)$$

$$\text{substance as : } gy(\vec{z}) \leq 0, \text{ for } y = 1, \dots, p \quad (3)$$

$$hy(\vec{z}) = 0, \text{ for } y = p + 1, \dots, q \quad (4)$$

K-means clustering procedure relies on the preliminary locations and continuously congregates to the nearby local prime from the early point. Users require presetting the  $k$  value and centering points, which will often have an immense impact on cluster results. Hence, in the procedure of users gathering, we employed ABC procedure to conquer the K-mean clustering procedure. Therefore, in our proposed system, we employed ABC procedure to regulate the optimum value of center points and the resolutions compare with group's centers. The

**Algorithm: ABC-KM Collaborative Filtering Pseudo Code**

```

For each movie Mo1 in User U1's list
    For each user U2 who rated Mo1
        For each movie Mo2 purchased by
            User U1
                Record that a user rated Mo1 and Mo2
    For each movie Mo2
        Compute the similarity between Mo1 and Mo2
Cluster Initialization:
Reset the center of the clusters
Represent every close cluster as a data point
Compute mean of all data points and detect the location of the cluster.
Repeat above phases until convergence.
Population Initialisation:
Prepare the communities  $z_{i,j}$ ,  $i = 1 \dots SN$ ,  $j = 1 \dots D$ 
Estimate communities
period=1
reiteration
Generate fresh results  $v_{i,j}$  for the laboring bees by Equation 2 and compute
Execute the greedy choice procedure (GCP)
Compute the probability by Equation 1.
Compute fresh answers  $v_{i,j}$  from the  $z_{i,j}$ .
Apply the GCP
Regulate the unrestrained answer for the scout, if occurs, and interchange with a fresh result  $x_{i,j}$  by (3)
Learn the finest answer
period = period + 1
until period=MPN(Maximum period Number)

```

**Fig. 3** Pseudocode of proposed system

working of our proposed system with ABC and k-mean can be précised as follows: First, initialize randomly the locations of food bases (each food base being a set of centroids), employ the k-means algorithm to complete clustering task for all created locations, and compute the fitness value of particular group of centroids. In the next step, bees hunt fresh food bases and inform the place of food bases by working bees. We applied k-means clustering algorithm to estimate new fitness values and match them with the original ones. Enhanced food bases will be supplied to onlooker bees. Then, we determined the probability values of food sources and updated their place according to the probability values by onlooker bees. Again, the k-means algorithm was applied to finish clustering process, estimate new fitness values, and compare them with the original ones to update them. We checked the trial counter of food sources, formed a new nourishment foundation (set of centroids), and repeated the steps until the termination criterion is encountered. Therefore, Figs. 2 and 3 illustrate the user and movie behavior who adopted the same working flow as we explained above.

## 4 Experiment and results

We adopted the publically available Movielens dataset as it has 100,000 ratings, 943 consumers, and 1682 movies of scale 1–5 (<http://grouplens.org/datasets/movielens/>). As discussed in the previous section, we presented a hybrid framework of k-means with ABC algorithm to achieve an improved movie recommendation system. Framework mentioned in the former section is used the Movielens dataset where data are considered from  $u_1$  to  $u_5$  and  $U_a$  to  $U_b$ . To measure the performance of recommender system, mean absolute error, precision, recall, and accuracy were computed. Comprehensive analysis and behavior of recommender system framework are given below. In Table 1 and Fig. 4, precision values of our proposed system are better than those of existing methods.

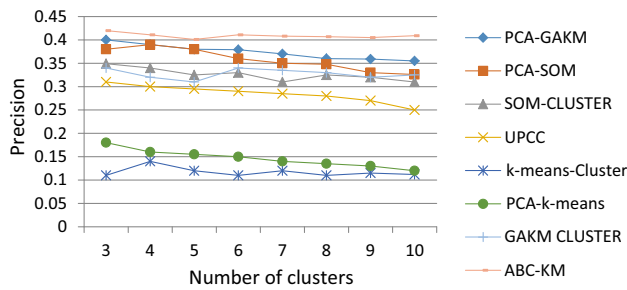
$$\text{Precision} = \frac{|\text{interesting} \cap \text{TopN}|}{N} \quad (5)$$

$$\text{Recall} = \frac{|\text{interesting} \cap \text{TopN}|}{|\text{interesting}|} \quad (6)$$

We concluded from Table 2 and Fig. 5 that recall for different clusters is better for our proposed system when compared with existing methods.

**Table 1** Precision for different approaches for diverse values of  $k$ 

System/cluster	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
PCA-GAKM	0.4	0.39	0.38	0.379	0.37	0.36	0.359	0.355
PCA-SOM	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.36	0.35	0.348	0.33	0.326
SOM-CLUSTER	0.349	0.34	0.325	0.33	0.31	0.325	0.32	0.31
UPCC	0.31	0.3	0.295	0.29	0.285	0.28	0.27	0.25
k-means cluster	0.11	0.14	0.12	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.115	0.112
PCA-k-means	0.18	0.16	0.155	0.15	0.14	0.135	0.13	0.12
GAKM CLUSTER	0.34	0.32	0.31	0.34	0.335	0.33	0.32	0.325
ABC-KM	0.42	0.411	0.401	0.411	0.408	0.407	0.405	0.409

**Fig. 4** Comparison of precision with various methods

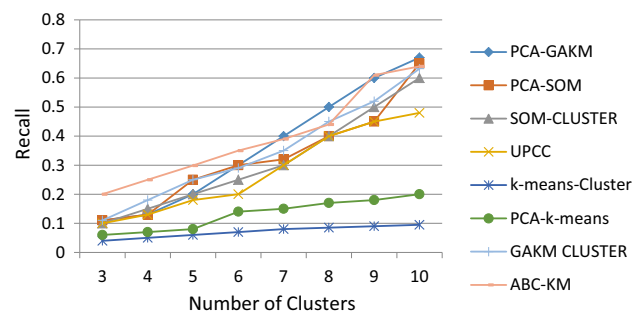
We compared the performance of our proposed system with the already existing systems. We need to investigate the MAE of the proposed routine and then compare it against MAE of other legacy systems.

$$MAE = \frac{\sum |\tilde{P}_{ij} - r_{ij}|}{M} \quad (7)$$

where  $M$  is the quantity of films,  $r_{ij}$  is the actual rating, and  $P_{ij}$  is the predicted rating of user  $i$  on movie  $j$ . We concluded that Table 3 and Fig. 6 show better MAE values for ABC-KM system when compared to other existing methods.

With an increasing amount of ratings, ABC-KM performed well in Fig. 7.

In Table 4, the performance of various methods has been presented which were performed on the Movielens dataset. We estimated the behavior of all procedures on a machine that has a configuration as an i3 processor with

**Fig. 5** Comparison of recall with various methods

1.9 GHz and 8 GB RAM. The ABC-KM system has efficient speed performance when compared to existing systems and can perform better if the proposed system is implemented in the high-configuration-processing environment.

## 5 Conclusion and future scope

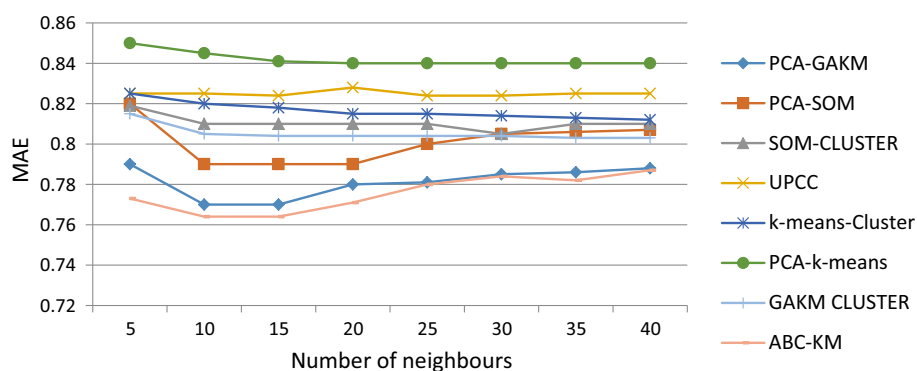
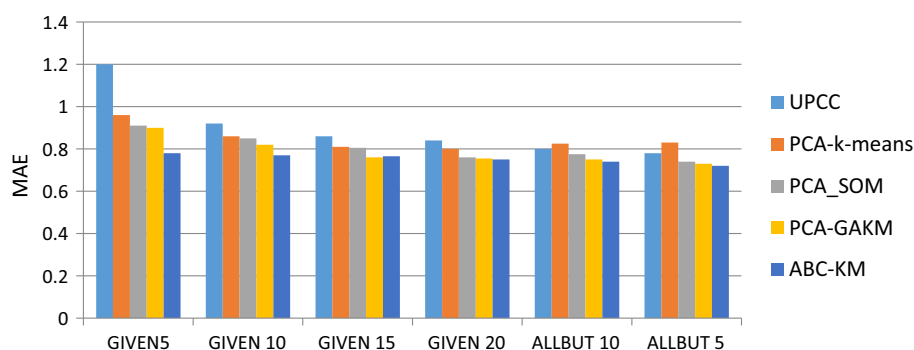
In this article, ABC-KM with k-means and artificial bee colony optimization is proposed with the Movielens dataset that results in an improved movie recommendation system. We measured the performance of our technique with mean absolute error, precision, recall, and accuracy. The experiment outcomes on the Movielens dataset indicated that our proposed recommender system offered high performance regarding accuracy, reliability, and personalization for

**Table 2** Recall for different approaches for diverse values of  $k$ 

System/cluster	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
PCA-GAKM	0.11	0.13	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.67
PCA-SOM	0.11	0.13	0.25	0.3	0.32	0.4	0.45	0.65
SOM-CLUSTER	0.1	0.15	0.2	0.25	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6
UPCC	0.1	0.13	0.18	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.45	0.48
k-means cluster	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.085	0.09	0.095
PCA-k-means	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.14	0.15	0.17	0.18	0.2
GAKM CLUSTER	0.11	0.18	0.25	0.29	0.35	0.45	0.52	0.632
ABC-KM	0.2	0.25	0.299	0.35	0.39	0.44	0.61	0.64

**Table 3** MAE for different approaches for diverse standards of k

System/cluster	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40
PCA-GAKM	0.79	0.77	0.77	0.78	0.781	0.785	0.786	0.788
PCA-SOM	0.82	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.8	0.805	0.806	0.807
SOM-CLUSTER	0.819	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.805	0.81	0.81
UPCC	0.825	0.825	0.824	0.828	0.824	0.824	0.825	0.825
k-means cluster	0.825	0.82	0.818	0.815	0.815	0.814	0.813	0.812
PCA-k-means	0.85	0.845	0.841	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84
GAKM CLUSTER	0.815	0.805	0.804	0.804	0.804	0.804	0.803	0.803
ABC-KM	0.773	0.764	0.764	0.771	0.78	0.784	0.782	0.787

**Fig. 6** Comparison of MAE with various methods**Fig. 7** MAE for the different rating level**Table 4** Comparisons of speed for different methods for Movielens dataset

Methods	PCA-GAKM	PCA-SOM	SOM-CLUSTER	UPCC	k-means cluster	PCA-k-means	GAKM CLUSTER	ABC-KM
Speed (in seconds)	26.32	141.73	76.92	159.34	16.25	55.56	355.71	53.22

movie recommendations with the specific number of clusters. For future work, our system's performance may be evaluated on advance high-configuration machine by

including other important characteristics of users, such as privacy and context with cross-domain data.



## Compliance with ethical standards

**Conflict of interest** The author declares that he has no conflict of interest.

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