



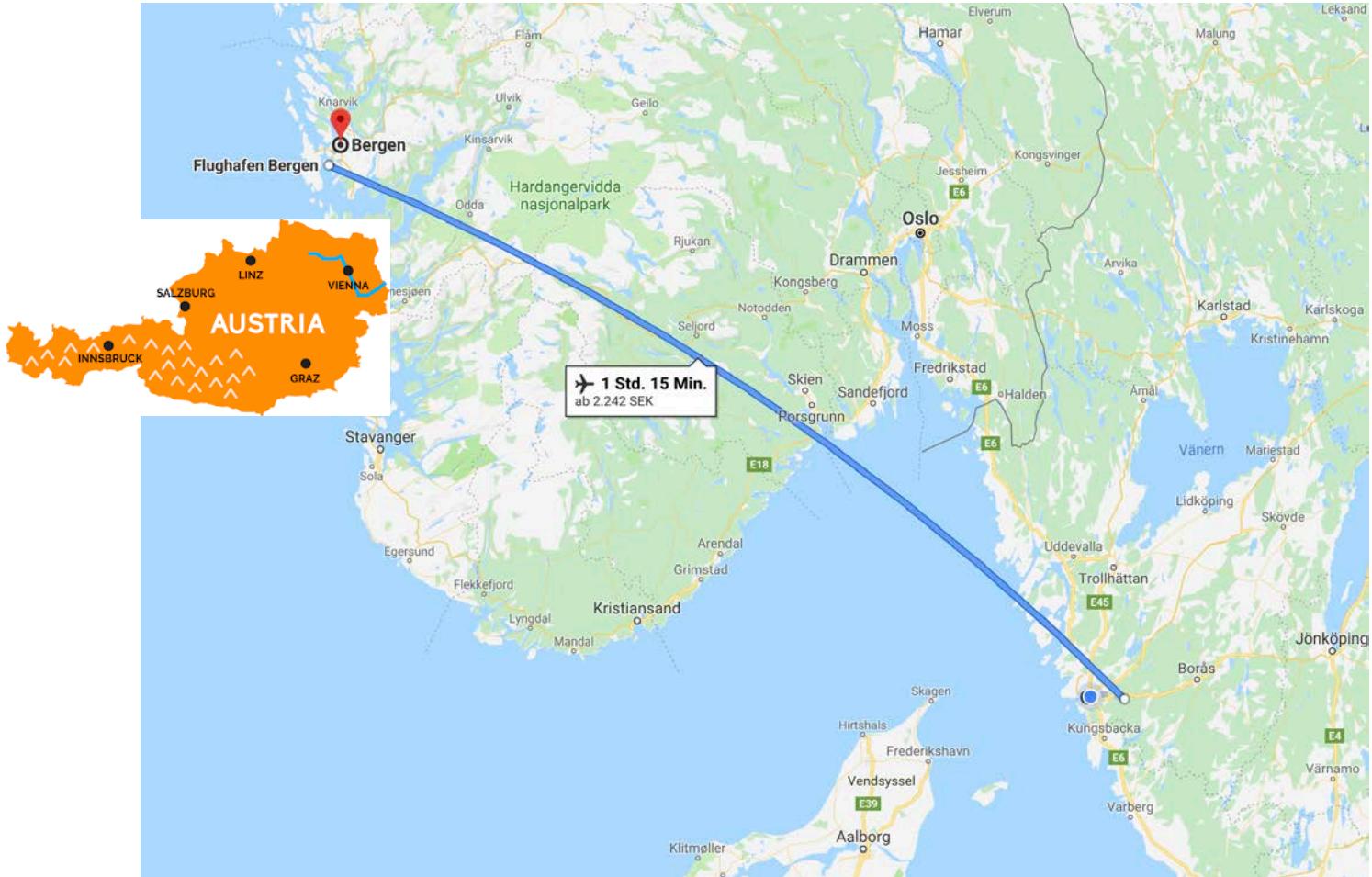
# Food Recommenders

A Data Science Perspective

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University of Bergen

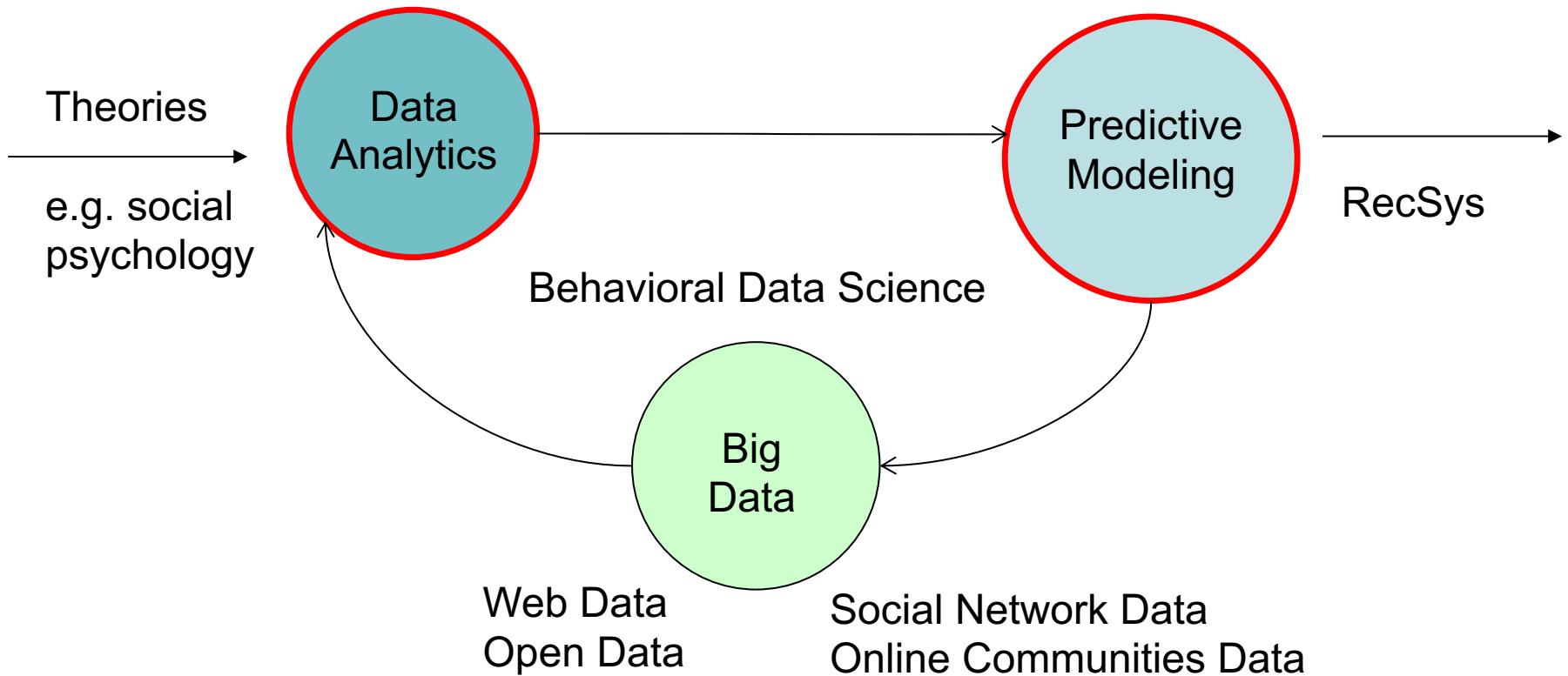


# Where do I come from?



# Research Focus

Understand how people behave



# Agenda

1. Motivation
2. DS: Healthiness of Online Food
3. RS: State-of-the-art & Health-aware Food RecSys
4. DS: Linking Online to Offline
5. DS: Predicting Item Popularity (Factor Analysis)
6. DS/RS: Factors & Food RecSys
7. RS: Altering Food Choice with RecSys
8. RS: Recommending Similar Foods
9. RS: Collaborative Filtering vs Content-Based
10. The Future & Conclusions

# Part 1: Motivation

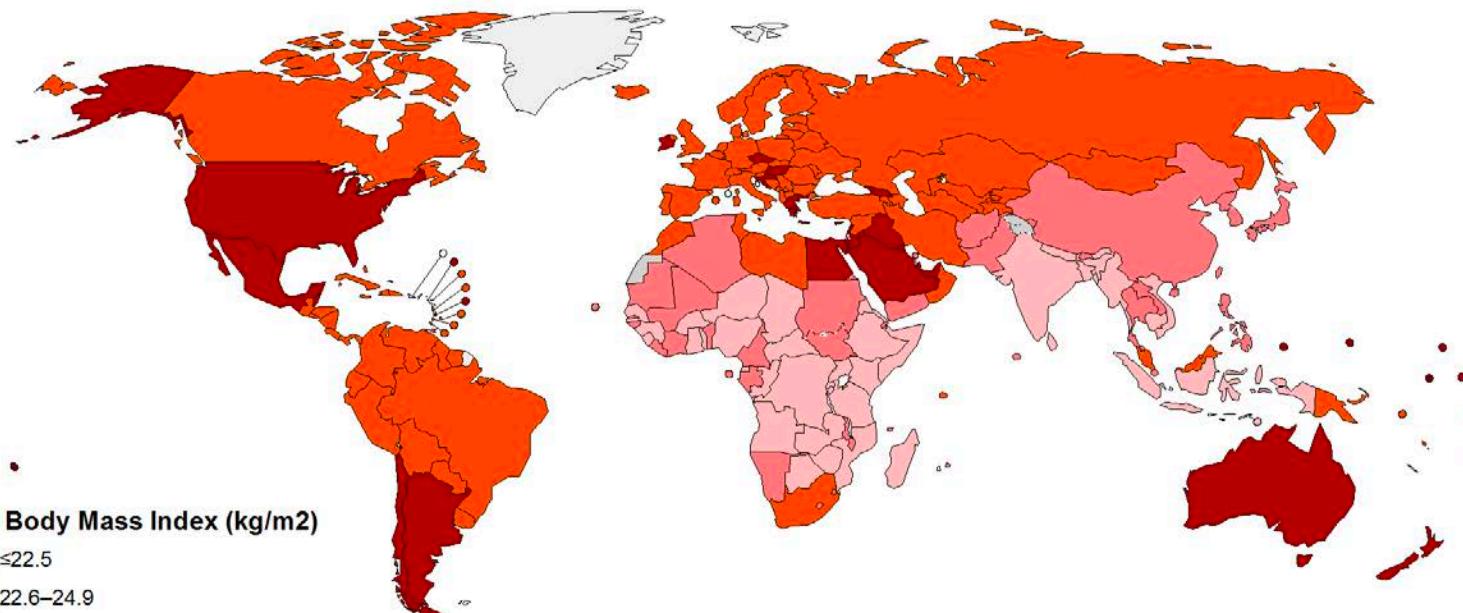
# Why is research into Food Recsys Important?

# Why is that important?

- Food is one the main concepts that **shapes how good we feel and how healthy we are**
- According to the WHO, if common lifestyle risk factors, among others diet-related ones, were eliminated, **around 80% of cases of heart disease, strokes and type 2 diabetes, and 40% of cancers, could be avoided** (European Comission Recommendation C(2010) 2587 final, 2010).

# Health is decreasing World Wide

**Mean Body Mass Index (kg/m<sup>2</sup>), ages 18+, 2016 (age standardized estimate)**  
**Male**



**Note:** For mapping purposes, the map shows identical values for Sudan and South Sudan.  
 These values concern the former Sudan as it existed prior to July 2011.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Data Source: World Health Organization  
 Map Production: Information Evidence and Research (IER)  
 World Health Organization



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The approaches I am discussing today  
are all online food recommender  
approaches!

Why Online?

# Most food interactions nowadays online

According to recent market research over 50%



The screenshot shows the homepage of the allrecipes website. At the top, there is a red navigation bar with links for "Oppskrifter", "Finn butikk", "NETTBUTIKK", "TILBUD", "KUNDEAVIS", and "Logg inn / Kuponer". Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar with the placeholder "Søk etter varer, oppskrifter eller butikker". A message indicates that the next delivery time from the netbutikk is at 08:10 tomorrow. Two main promotional banners are displayed: one for "HELT RÅ PÅ FERSK KYLLING" (Fresh Raw Chicken) and another for "TACOFREDAG HELE HELGEN" (Taco Friday Weekend) with a "1/2 PRIS" (Half Price) offer.



# Amazon

amazon

All ▾

Shop Today's Deals

Deliver to Austria

Departments ▾ Your Amazon.com Today's Deals EN Hello, Sign in Account & Lists ▾ Orders Cart 0

Grocery Deals Snacks ▾ Breakfast ▾ Warm Beverages Cold Beverages Cooking Staples ▾ Baby Food ▾ Candy & Chocolate ▾ Prime Pantry ▾

**Featured Shops**

- New Year, New You
- Grocery Sales & Deals
- Subscribe & Save
- Prime Pantry
- Amazon Family
- Grocery Dash Buttons
- International Food Market

Show results for

**Grocery & Gourmet Food**

- Baby Foods
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Beverages
- Breads & Bakery
- Breakfast Foods
- Candy & Chocolate
- Canned, Jarred & Packaged Foods
- Condiments & Salad Dressings

**Groceries & Gourmet Food**

Shop groceries online for delivery of [coffee](#), [snacks](#), [chocolate](#), and everyday food.

**NEW YEAR NEW YOU**  
Start 2019 with healthy food & beverages

  
[Shop now ▶](#)

# Part 2: Healthiness of Online Food (Recipes)

# RQ: How healthy are online food items (recipes) actually?

<http://allrecipes.com>

allrecipes BROWSE Find a recipe Ingredient Search Q 1

Home > Recipes > Fruits and Vegetables > Vegetables > Rhubarb

## Strawberry Rhubarb Custard Pie

★★★★★ 80 made it | 62 reviews

Recipe by: Chef John

31K Save I Made It Rate it Share Print

"One of the most delicious and easiest pie recipes I know. I got this wonderful recipe from my mother Pauline, who I believe got it from my Aunt Angela. I love all their pies, but this might be my favorite."



Basic statistics:

- 60,983 recipes
- 1,032,226 ratings
- 17,190,534 bookmarks

## Ingredients

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| + 1 (9 inch) unbaked pie crust (see footnote for recipe link) | + 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour    |
| + 3 cups rhubarb, sliced 1/4-inch thick                       | + 1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg |
| + 1 cup fresh strawberries, quartered                         | + 1 tablespoon butter, diced         |
| + 3 large eggs  | + 2 tablespoons strawberry jam       |
| + 1 1/2 cups white sugar                                      | + 1/4 teaspoon water                 |

Nutrition			
Amount per serving (8 total)			
Calories:	342 kcal	17%	
Fat:	11.1 g	17%	
Carbs:	57.4g	19%	
Protein:	4.8 g	10%	
Cholesterol:	74 mg	25%	
Sodium:	159 mg	6%	

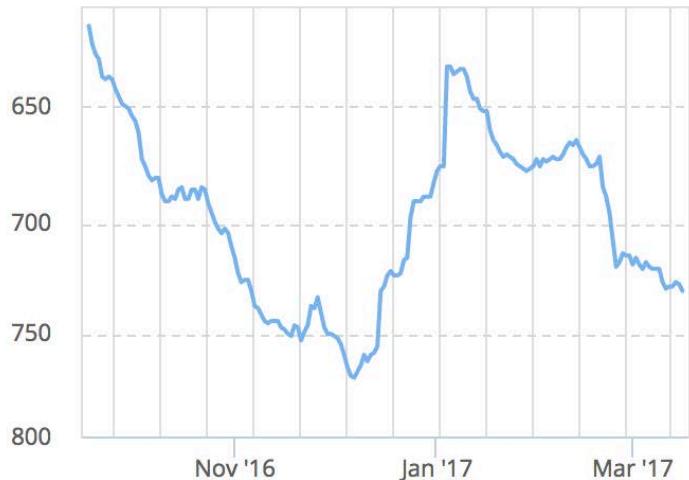
## Nutrition Facts

How popular is allrecipes.com?

# Allrecipes.com popularity

## Alexa Traffic Ranks

How is this site ranked relative to other sites?



According to Alexa.com

Global Rank ?

 730 ▼ 2

Rank in United States ?

 217

Country	Percent of Visitors	Rank in Country
 United States	69.6%	217
 Canada	8.0%	219
 United Kingdom	2.5%	1,375
 Germany	2.0%	2,017
 India	1.3%	4,349

# How can we determine the healthiness of online recipes?

Trattner, C. Elsweiler, D. and Simon, H. **Estimating the Healthiness of Internet Recipes: A Cross-Sectional Study.** Frontiers in Public Health, 2017.

Trattner, C. and Elsweiler, D. **Investigating the Healthiness of Internet-Sourced Recipes: Implications for Meal Planning and Recommender Systems.** In Proceedings of the World Wide Web Conference (WWW), 2017.

# Determining the healthiness of recipes

## What the colours mean:



**RED**

means **HIGH**

indicating that the food is **high** in fat, sugars or salt

*It's fine to eat this food occasionally or as a treat, but think about how often you choose it and how much of it you eat.*



**AMBER**

means **MEDIUM**

making it an **OK** choice

*Although going for green is even better!*



**GREEN**

means it's **LOW**

*Which makes it a **healthier** choice.*



## FSA food health criteria

Check how much fat, sugar and salt is in your food



Remember that the amount you eat of a particular food affects how much sugars, fat, saturates and salt you will get from it.

### Food Shopping Card

	Sugars	Fat	Saturates	Salt
What is <b>HIGH</b> per 100g	Over 15g	Over 20g	Over 5g	Over 1.5g
What is <b>MEDIUM</b> per 100g	Between 5g and 15g	Between 3g and 20g	Between 1.5g and 5g	Between 0.3g and 1.5g
What is <b>LOW</b> per 100g	5g and below	3g and below	1.5g and below	0.3g and below

# Determining the healthiness of recipes

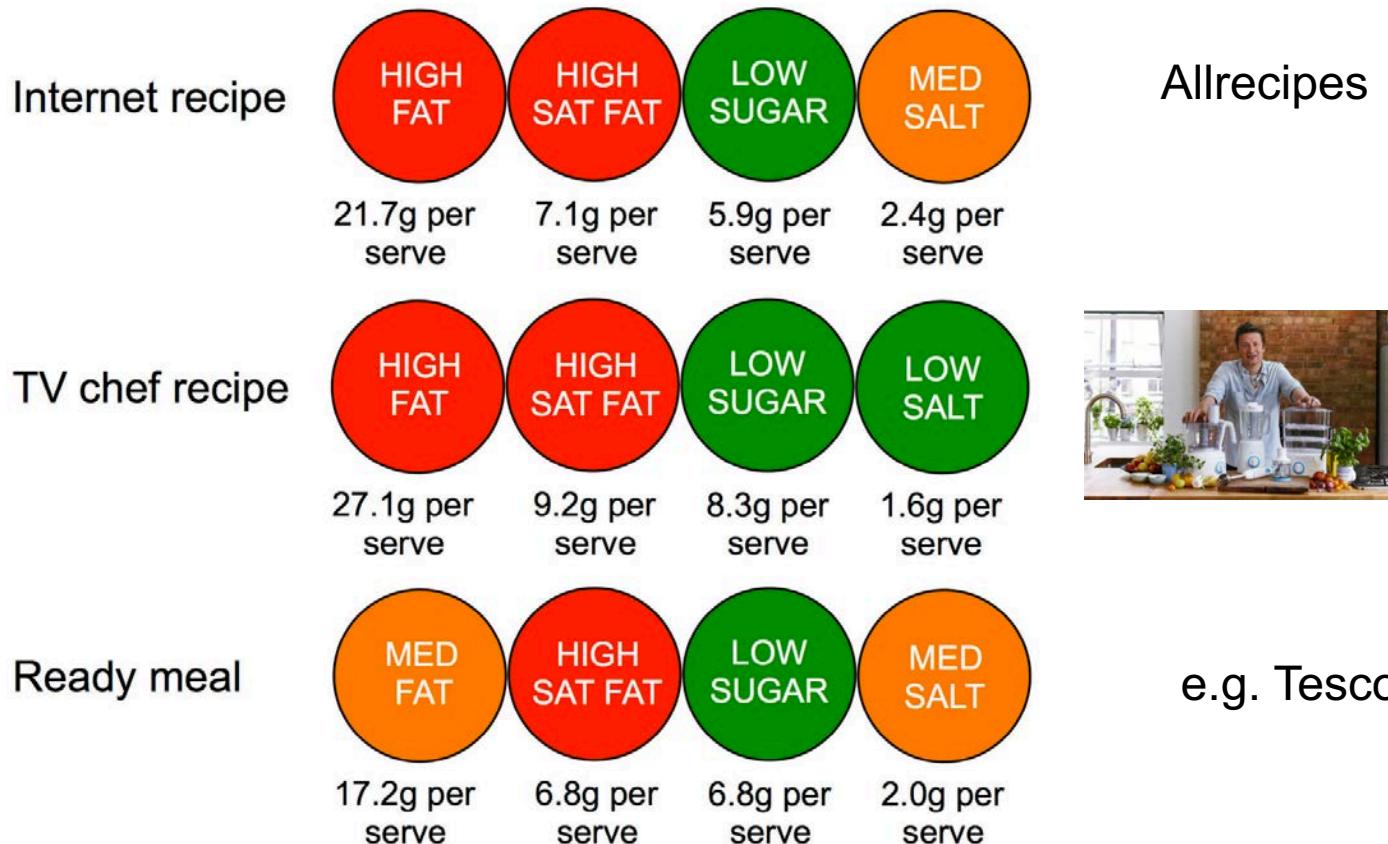
## Ranges of population nutrient intake goals

Dietary factor	Goal (% of total energy, unless otherwise stated)
→ Total fat	15–30%
→ Saturated fatty acids	<10%
Polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs)	6–10%
n-6 Polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs)	5–8%
n-3 Polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs)	1–2%
Trans fatty acids	<1%
Monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFAs)	By difference <sup>a</sup>
→ Total carbohydrate	55–75% <sup>b</sup>
→ Free sugars <sup>c</sup>	<10%
→ Protein	10–15% <sup>d</sup>
Cholesterol	<300 mg per day
→ Sodium chloride (sodium) <sup>e</sup>	<5 g per day (<2 g per day)
Fruits and vegetables	≥400 g per day
→ Total dietary fibre	From foods <sup>f</sup>
Non-starch polysaccharides (NSP)	From foods <sup>f</sup>

Who. Diet, nutrition and the prevention of chronic diseases. World Health Organ TechRep Ser, 916(i-viii), 2003.

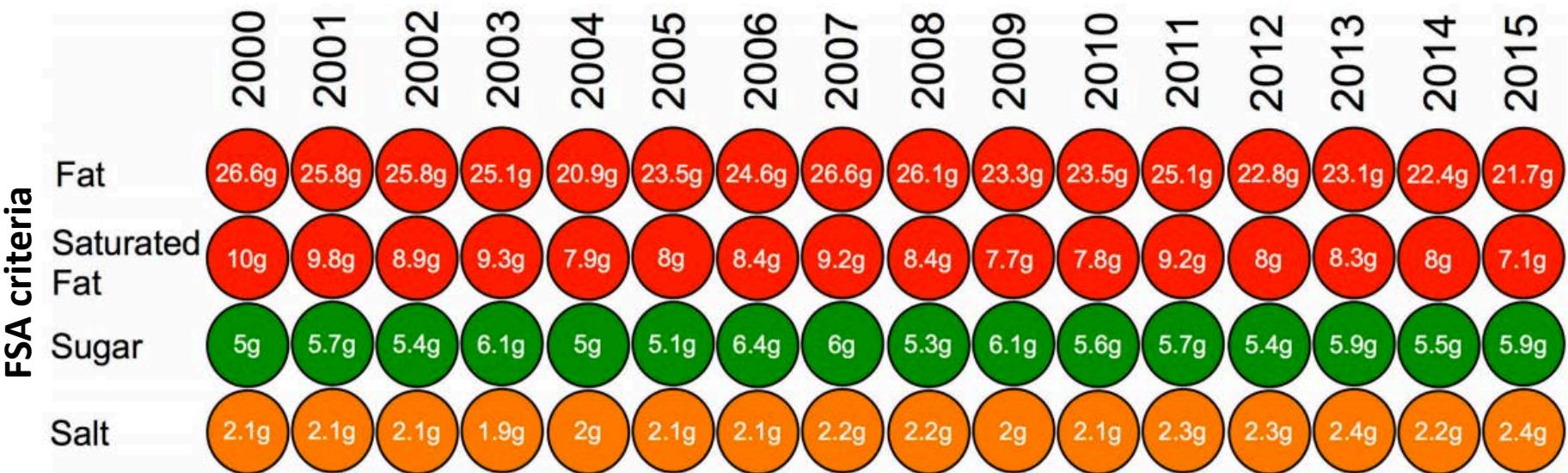
# Results

# Online food is unhealthy 😞



Trattner, C., Elsweiler, D. and Simon, H. Estimating the Healthiness of Internet Recipes: A Cross-Sectional Study. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 2017.

# Online food (recipes) is unhealthy 😞

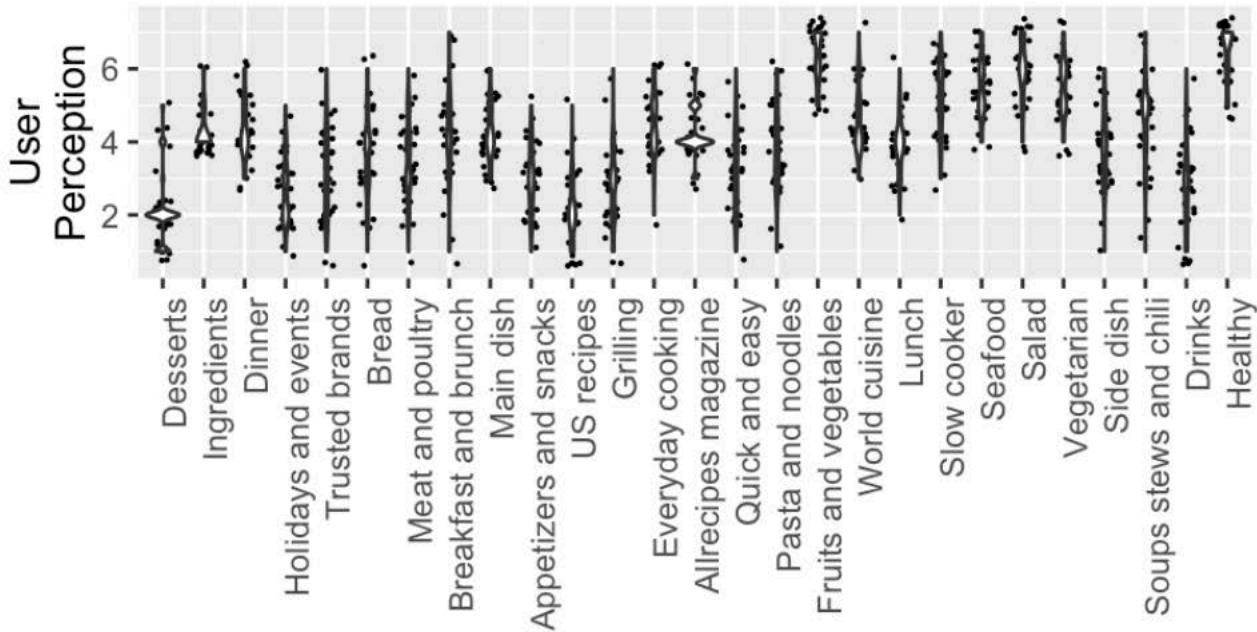


# Online food is unhealthy 😞

Category	n	Energy (kCal)	FSA front of package label				Health scores	
			Fat (grams)	Sat. Fat (grams)	Sugar (grams)	Sodium (grams)	WHO score	FSA score <sup>‡</sup>
Desserts	11,317↑	331.48↑	16.27 ↑	7.27 ↑	27.92 ↑	0.21 ↓	1.61	9.64 <sup>(1)</sup>
Ingredients	2039	265.06↑	14.13 ↑	5.84 ↑	16.44 ↑	0.36 ↑	1.59	9.06 <sup>(2)</sup>
Dinner	1033↓	166.61	9.07	3.44	2.59 ↓	0.35	1.41	8.43 <sup>(3)</sup>
Holidays and events	11,185	218.42↑	11.33 ↑	4.52 ↑	12.62 ↑	0.28	1.87	8.38 <sup>(4)</sup>
Trusted brands	1744	200.45	10.06	4.08 ↑	8.73	0.32	1.83	8.2 <sup>(5)</sup>
Bread	2972	261.86↑	9.95	3.53	12.72 ↑	0.35 ↑	2.42	8.18 <sup>(6)</sup>
Meat and poultry	12,672↑	151.97	8.46	3.09	2.62	0.33	1.62	8.17 <sup>(7)</sup>
Breakfast and brunch	2167	188.8	9.26	3.56	7.82	0.28	2.11	8.09 <sup>(8)</sup>
Main dish	13,188↑	159.51	8.36	3.08	2.48 ↓	0.31	1.77	8.09 <sup>(9)</sup>
Appetizers and snacks	4162	226.67↑	15.73 ↑	5.79 ↑	4.8	0.44 ↑	1.82	8.08 <sup>(10)</sup>
US recipes	3556	185.89	9.76	3.52	8.3	0.36 ↑	1.92	8.08 <sup>(11)</sup>
Grilling	1682↓	156.72	8.74	2.77	4.83	0.54 ↑	1.64	8 <sup>(12)</sup>
Allrecipes magazine	842↓	190.79	10.08 ↑	3.84	9.27	0.33	2	7.94 <sup>(13)</sup>
Everyday cooking	22,657↑	187	9.69	3.71	8.66	0.28	2	7.97 <sup>(14)</sup>
Quick and easy	1955	167.82	8.65	3.23	2.39 ↓	0.32	1.83	7.86 <sup>(15)</sup>
Pasta and noodles	2692	186.21	8.62	3.28	2.79	0.27	2.31	7.82 <sup>(16)</sup>
Fruits and vegetables	19,574↑	171.44	8.7	3.25	9.06	0.24 ↓	2.15	7.76 <sup>(17)</sup>
World cuisine	7444	178.05	9.05	3.26	7.46	0.29	2.16	7.68 <sup>(18)</sup>
Lunch	693↓	158.36	9.1	2.78	3.11	0.32	2.07	7.63 <sup>(19)</sup>
Slow cooker	1283↓	121.26↓	5.66 ↓	2.17 ↓	3.67	0.3	1.89	7.6 <sup>(20)</sup>
Seafood	3237	157.6	8.94	3.05	1.79 ↓	0.32	1.9	7.46 <sup>(21)</sup>
Salad	3031	146.84	9	1.93 ↓	4.48	0.24	2.33	7.22 <sup>(22)</sup>
Vegetarian	4889	159.09	8.47	3.01	5.95	0.26	2.58	7.15 <sup>(23)</sup>
Side dish	4006	128.99↓	6.64 ↓	2.69	3.71	0.24	2.58	6.97 <sup>(24)</sup>
Soups stews and chili	3605	82.93↓	3.89 ↓	1.59 ↓	1.65 ↓	0.22 ↓	2.29	6.87 <sup>(25)</sup>
Drinks	1801	86.37↓	1.5 ↓	0.82 ↓	10.22 ↑	0.03 ↓	2.51	6.01 <sup>(26)</sup>
Healthy	3175	107.83↓	2.34 ↓	0.56 ↓	6.77	0.2 ↓	3.43	5.6 <sup>(27)</sup>
All recipes	58,263	204.87	10.58	4.10	10.55	.31	1.94	8.13

# User perception

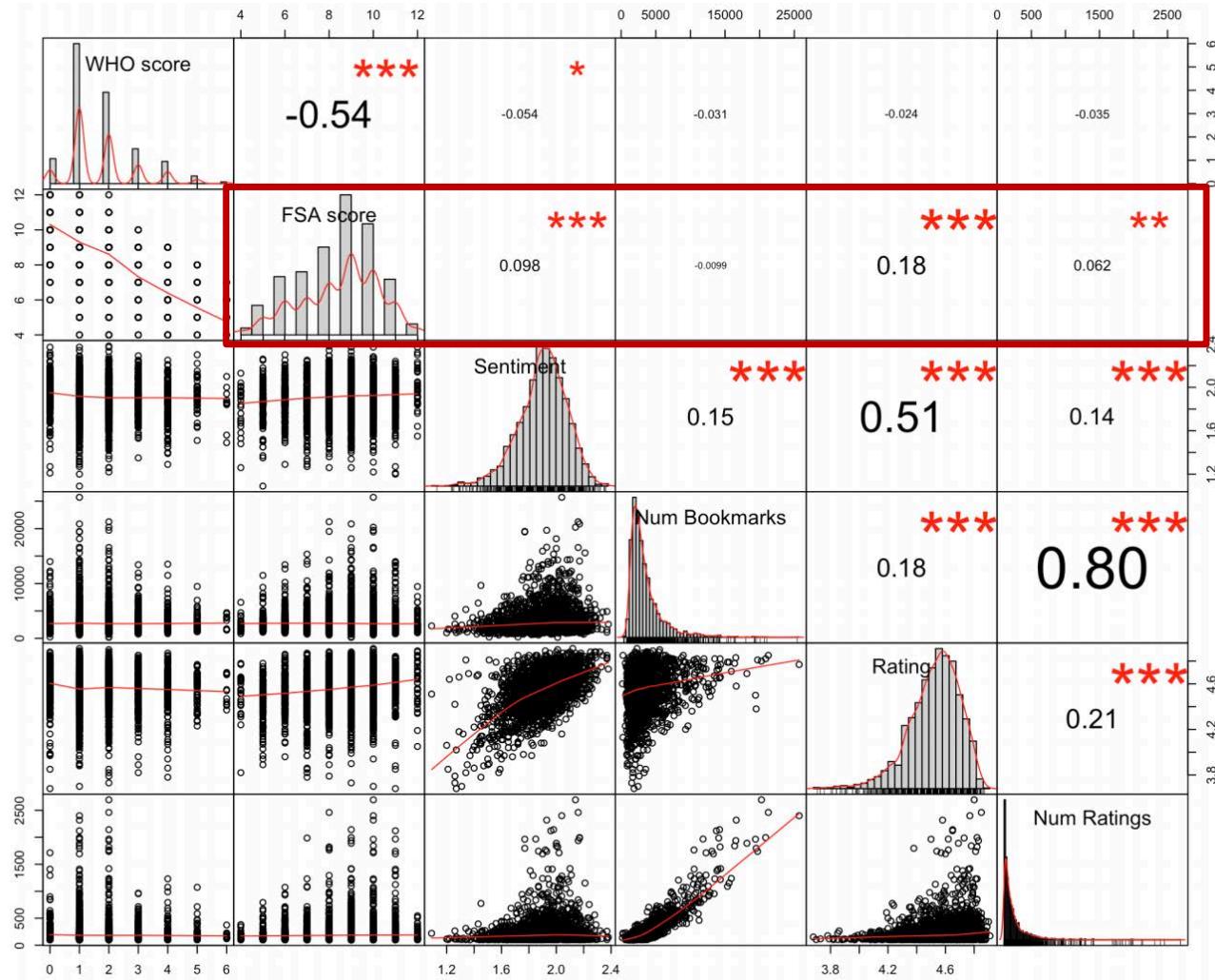
Results when asking users how healthy categories are on Allrecipes.com



(Kappa  $\kappa = .165$ ,  $z = 42$ ,  $p < .001$ )

With which types of recipes do user interact the most?

# People seem to like unhealthy recipes



# Part 3: State-of-the-art & Health-aware Food RecSys

How healthy are recommendations produced by std. recommender systems algorithms in terms of health?

# What is actually the current state-of-the-art in Food Recommenders?

**Food Recommender Systems: Important Contributions, Challenges and Future Research Directions.** Trattner, C. and Elsweiler, D. Collaborative Recommendations: Algorithms, Practical Challenges and Applications, World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd., 2018

Author(s)	Algorithm(s)	Person- alized	RecSys Type(s)	Feedback	Context/ Content Feature(s)	Dietary Constraints	Target	Dataset	IAS SIS
					Title Image Ingredients Nutrition Pop. & Appr				
(Elsweiler, Trattner & Harvey, 2017)	Logistic Random Forrest Naive Bayes	no	Recipes	Ratings Binary	Title Image Ingredients Nutrition Pop. & Appr	no	Single User	Allrecipes	
	LDA WRMF AR SLIM BPR MostPop User- ItemKNN BPR MostPop								
(Trattner & Elsweiler, 2017)	SLIM BPR MostPop User- ItemKNN BPR MostPop Learning to Rank	yes/no	Recipes Meal Plans	Bookmarks Ratings Comments	WHO-FSA health score	no	Single User	Allrecipes	
	UserKNN MostPop MF CB								
(Cheng, Rokicki & Herder, 2017)	MF CB	yes	Recipes	Ratings Tags	City Size Tags	no	Single User	Kochbar	
	SVD-Hybrid								
(Yang et al., 2017)	UserKNN SVD Hybrid NL-PCA	yes	Groceries	Purchases	Food Categories	no	Single User	Grocery store data	
	UserKNN CB								
(Trevisiol, Chiarandini & Baeza-Yates, 2014)	MF	yes	Recipes	Ratings Tags	Text Sentiment tags	no	Single User	Yelp	
	CB, CF Logistic Reg. SVD-Hybrid								
(Elahi, Ge, Ricci, Massimo & Berkovsky, 2014)	SVM	no	Recipes	Ratings	Ingredients etc.	no	Single User	Quizine	
	Graph-based CB								
(Harvey et al., 2013)	CF	yes	Recipes	Ratings	Ingredients Nutrition Cook effort Cook methods	no	Single User	Allrecipes	
	KB								
(Teng, Lin & Adamic, 2012)	CB	yes	Menus (Set of recipes)	Tags	Ingredients	no	Single User	Food	
	KB								
(El-Dosuky, Rashad, Hamza & El-Bassiouny, 2012)	CF	yes	Food items	Query	tags	no	Single User	USDA	
	KB								
(Freyne, Berkovsky, Baghaei, Kimani & Smith, 2011)	CF	yes	Meal plans (Set of recipes)	Ratings	-	no	Single User	Wellbeing Diet Book	
	KB								
(Ueta, Iwakami & Ito, 2011)	CB	yes	Recipes	Query Cooked recipes	tags Recipe content features	no	Single User	Cookpad	
	CB								
(van Pinxteren, Geleijnse & Kamsteeg, 2011)	UserKNN CB Hybrid	yes	Recipes	Ratings	Ingredients	no	Single User	Smulweb	
	UserKNN								
(Freyne & Berkovsky, 2010)	CB	yes	Recipes	Ratings	Ingredients	no	Single User	Wellbeing Diet Book	
	CB								

# Results: Recommender Experiment

Mean ( $n = 4791$ )

	MAP@5	nDCG@5	WHO score	FSA score	$\Delta$ WHO	$\Delta$ FSA	FSA front of package label			
							Fat (g)	Sat. Fat (g)	Sugar (g)	Sodium (g)
LDA	<b>.0175</b>	<b>.0395</b>	1.554	9.110	-.137***	.498***	8.70	3.73	8.73	0.32
WRMF	.0160	.0365	1.496	9.114	-.196***	.503***	9.50	3.89	8.84	0.34
AR	.0149	.0343	1.550	9.206	-.141***	.595***	9.27	4.12	10.50	0.25
SLIM	.0143	.0326	1.643	8.907	-.048***	.295***	9.27	3.82	7.91	0.33
BPR	.0141	.0325	1.432	9.252	-.259***	.641***	8.69	3.82	7.83	0.29
MostPop	.0126	.0294	1.537	9.004	-.154***	.393***	9.02	3.94	10.01	0.23
UserKNN	.0100	.024	1.583	8.985	-.108***	.372***	8.96	3.73	7.98	0.31
ItemKNN	.0073	.0178	1.660	8.652	-.032***	.041***	8.59	3.51	6.03	0.31
Random	.0011	.0029	<b>1.750</b>	<b>8.486</b>	<b>.059***</b>	<b>-.126***</b>	8.74	3.49	5.71	0.30

\*\*\*  $p < .001$



$$\Delta = \text{train} - \text{pred}$$

Library: LibRec  
 Eval: 10 fold-cross validation

Can we improve std. recommender systems in terms of health?

# Re-ranking for health

## Post-Filter scoring functions

$$score_{u,i,who} = score_{u,i} \cdot (who_i + 1) \quad (1)$$

$$score_{u,i,fsa} = score_{u,i} \cdot (16 - fsa_i - 4 + 1) \quad (2)$$

Linear combinations as discussed in Elsweiler et al. (2015) did  
not work 😞

D. Elsweiler, M. Harvey, B. Ludwig, and A. Said. Bringing the "healthy" into food  
recommenders. In Proc. of DRMS'15., pages 33–36.

# Results: Recommender (2)

Mean ( $n = 4791$ )

	MAP@5	nDCG@5	WHO score	FSA score	$\Delta$ WHO	$\Delta$ FSA	FSA front of package label			
							Fat (g)	Sat. Fat (g)	Sugar (g)	Sodium (g)
LDA	<b>.0175</b>	<b>.0395</b>	1.554	9.110	-.137***	.498***	8.70	3.73	8.73	0.32
WRMF	.0160	.0365	1.496	9.114	-.196***	.503***	9.50	3.89	8.84	0.34
AR	.0149	.0343	1.550	9.206	-.141***	.595***	9.27	4.12	10.50	0.25
SLIM	.0143	.0326	1.643	8.907	-.048***	.295***	9.27	3.82	7.91	0.33
BPR	.0141	.0325	1.432	9.252	-.259***	.641***	8.69	3.82	7.83	0.29
MostPop	.0126	.0294	1.537	9.004	-.154***	.393***	9.02	3.94	10.01	0.23
UserKNN	.0100	.024	1.583	8.985	-.108***	.372***	8.96	3.73	7.98	0.31
ItemKNN	.0073	.0178	1.660	8.652	-.032***	.041***	8.59	3.51	6.03	0.31
Random	.0011	.0029	<b>1.750</b>	<b>8.486</b>	<b>.059***</b>	<b>-.126***</b>	8.74	3.49	5.71	0.30
FSA score post-filtered ( $score_{u,i,fsa}$ )										
LDA	<b>.0137</b>	<b>.0321</b>	2.170	7.323	.479***	-1.288***	6.51	2.42	4.03	0.29
WRMF	.0131	.0303	2.140	7.361	.449***	-1.250***	6.48	2.30	4.75	0.31
SLIM	.0109	.0248	2.384	7.008	.692***	-1.604***	6.20	2.56	2.59	0.24
AR	.0100	.0238	2.600	6.984	.909***	-1.627***	5.64	1.94	3.95	0.28
MostPop	.0096	.0228	2.542	7.334	.851***	-1.278***	5.37	2.02	2.46	0.24
BPR	.0086	.0205	2.783	6.722	1.092***	-1.889***	6.42	2.30	4.95	0.26
UserKNN	.0069	.0168	2.486	6.722	.795***	-1.891***	6.88	2.73	3.33	0.33
ItemKNN	.0044	.0109	2.703	6.124	1.012***	-2.488***	5.15	1.79	3.51	0.25
Random	.0009	.0022	<b>3.228</b>	<b>4.305</b>	<b>1.537***</b>	<b>-4.306***</b>	1.59	0.43	1.45	0.09

Note: \*\*\* $p < .001$



Note: similar results with bookmarks

# Conclusions

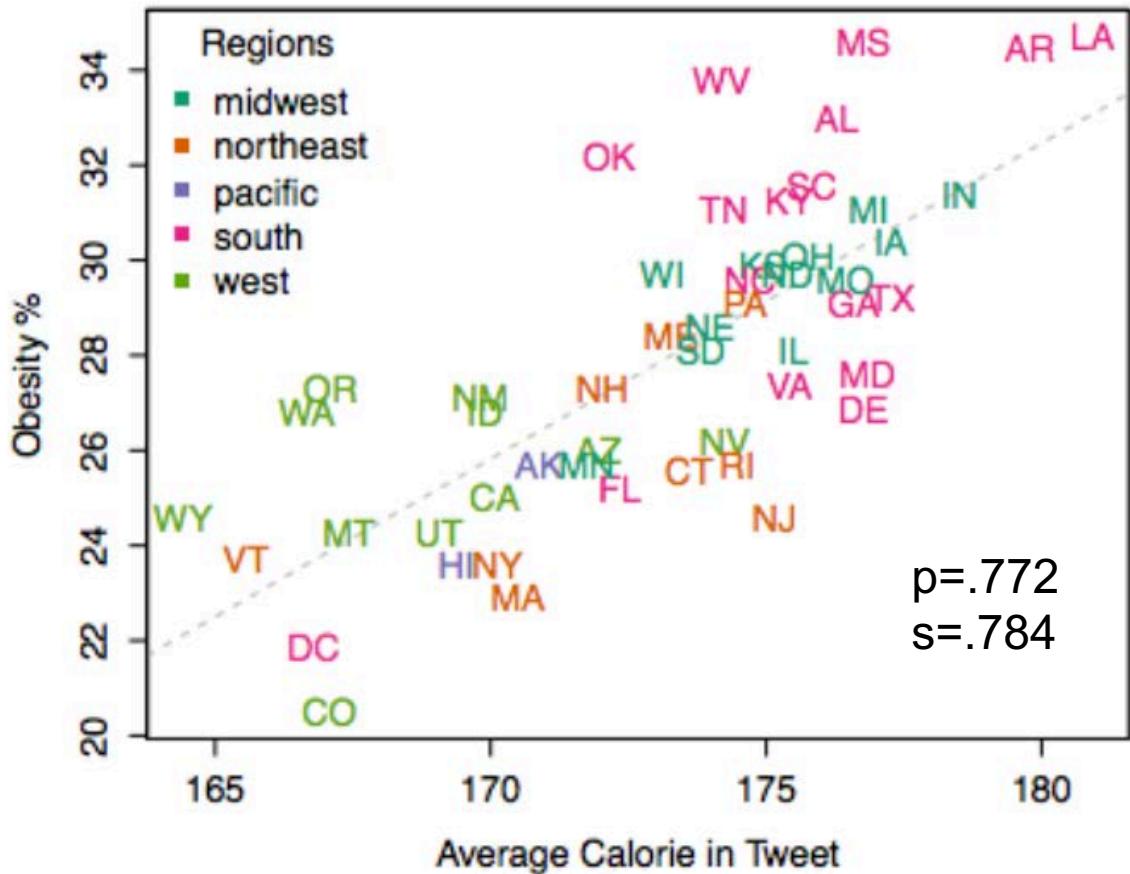
- Only a **small percentage** of Allrecipes.com recipes can be considered **healthy** according to WHO and FSA guidelines.
- **Users** are to some extent able to judge how healthy categories will be, but **often disagree**.
- Interaction data reveals that people are **most positive about the unhealthy recipes**.
- **Current state-of-the-art recommender algorithms in general produce unhealthy recommendations.**

# Part 4: Linking Online & Offline

Can we find a link between the online and offline world?

*Abbar, S., Mejova, Y., & Weber, I. (2015). You tweet what you eat: Studying food consumption through twitter. ACM CHI 2015.*

# Correlation between food mentions on Twitter & Obese



- 50 million tweets
- Food related keywords

<http://www.caloriecount.com/>

Abbar, S., Mejova, Y., & Weber, I. (2015). You tweet what you eat: Studying food consumption through twitter. ACM CHI 2015.

...in RecSys, we typically use other types of signals...

Trattner, C., Parra, D. and Elsweiler, D. *Monitoring obesity prevalence in the United States through bookmarking activities in online food portals*. PLOS ONE 12(6), 2017.

Trattner, C. and Elsweiler, D. **What online data say about eating habits**. NATURE Sustainability, 2019.

# Research Questions

- **RQ1.** To what extent do the nutritional properties of bookmarked recipes on Allrecipes.com correlate with obesity levels in the US?
- **RQ2.** To what extent can temporal or geographical factors help in explaining obesity patterns?
- **RQ3.** To what extent do nutrition factors explain the variance in obesity rates across the US?

# Dataset

# Dataset in detail

**Table 1. Basic statistics of the Allrecipes.com dataset with at least 30 users per county.**

Year	Num. Users	Num. Bookmarks	Num. Recipes	Num. Counties	Num. States
2004	1348	29,827	1491	25	13
2005	3185	63,512	2210	54	25
2006	7149	185,251	4964	99	36
2007	10,803	270,835	6850	135	40
2008	17,873	500,063	10,227	193	43
2009	21,644	625,661	12,077	225	47
2010	27,331	910,918	15,442	256	46
2011	29,004	933,521	15,351	266	47
2012	26,093	656,364	12,738	244	47

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0179144.t001>

# Variables

## Dependent Variable

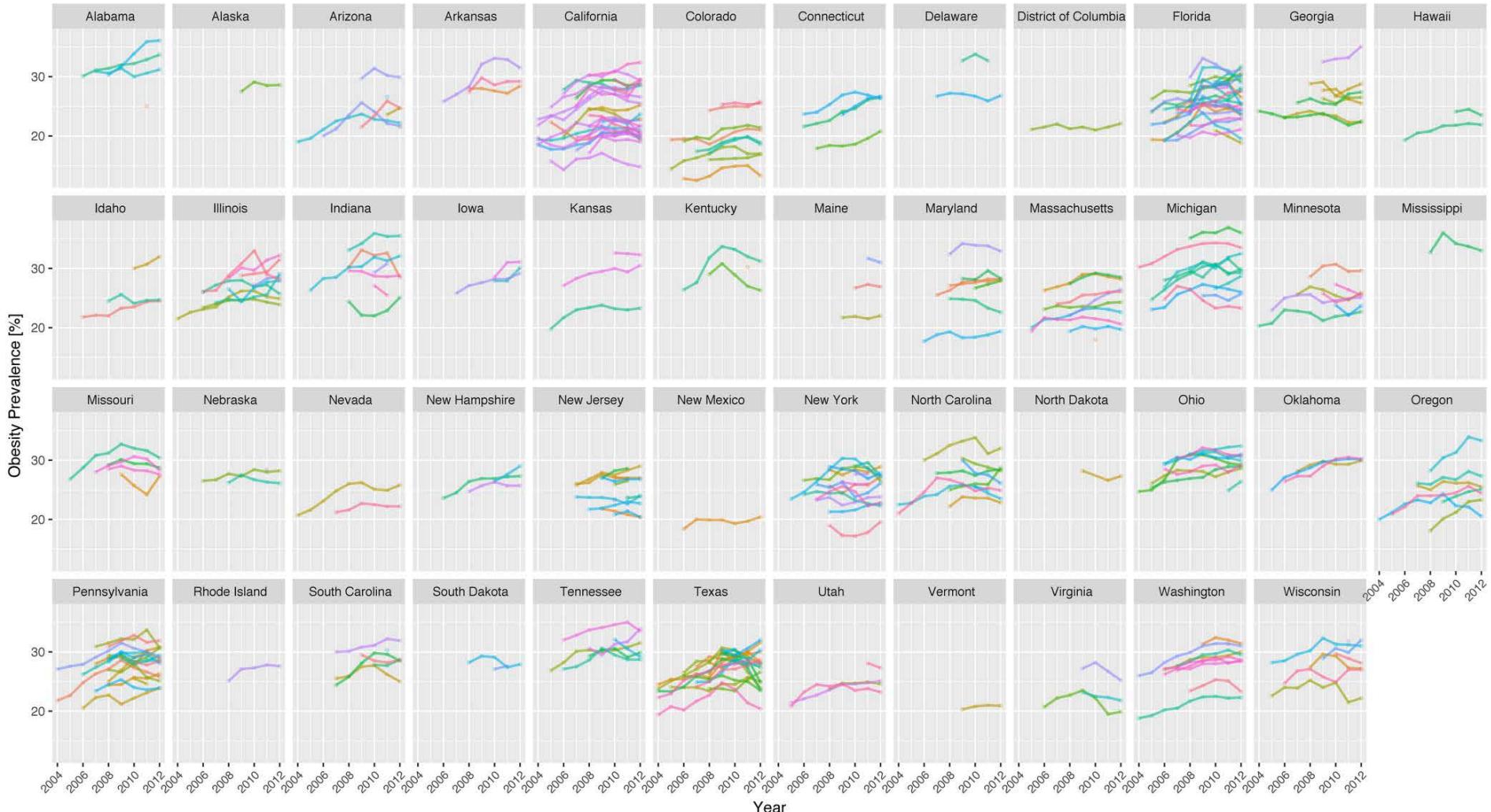
- **Obesity prevalence** (state / county level)

## Independent Variables

- Fat (of recipe)
- Saturated Fat (of recipe)
- Sugar (of recipe)
- Sodium (of recipe)
- *Healthiness (of recipe)*

# Results

# Trends over time



**Fig 2. Trends of obesity prevalence levels as a function of time (2004–2012) for states and corresponding counties (presented as lines) in the US.** We only report states and counties with at least 30 users bookmarking recipes in each of the counties for each year.

# Trends over time (zoom in)

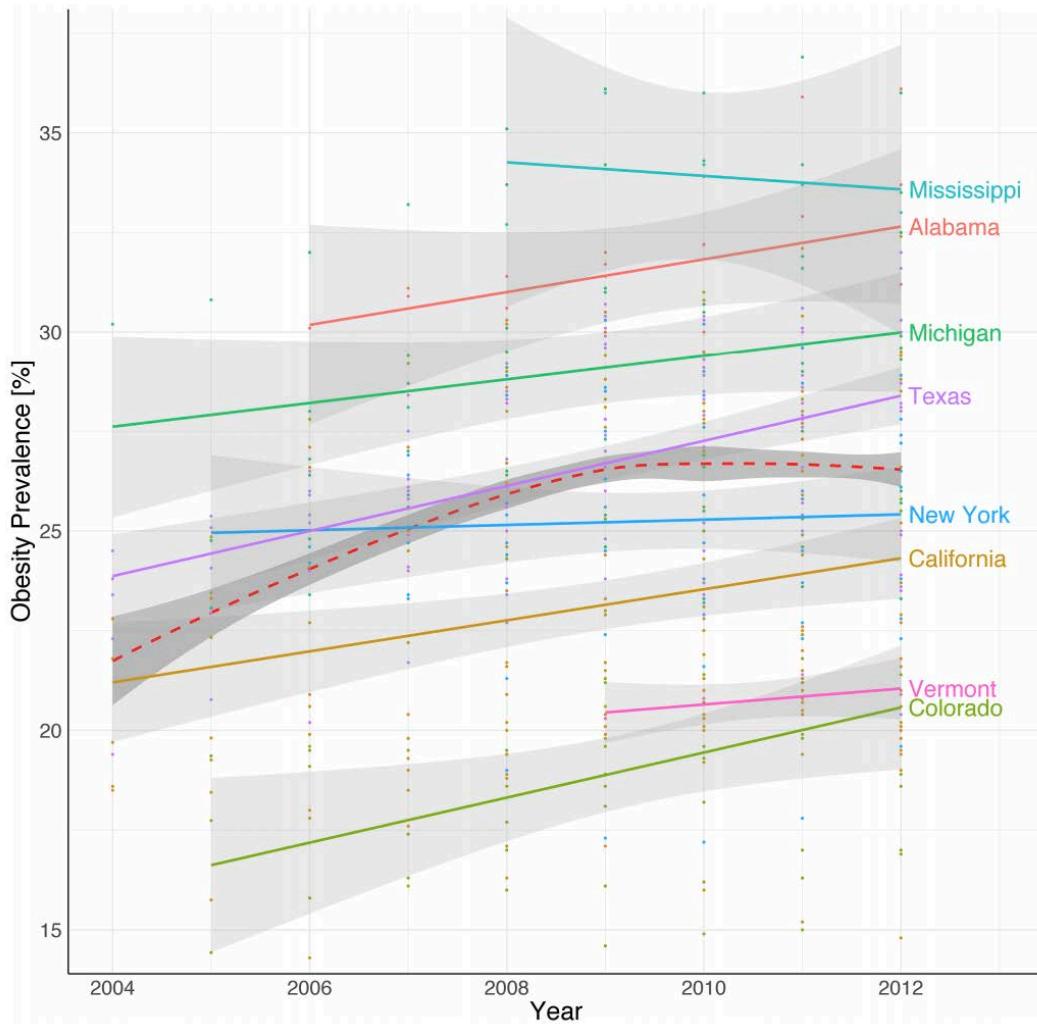
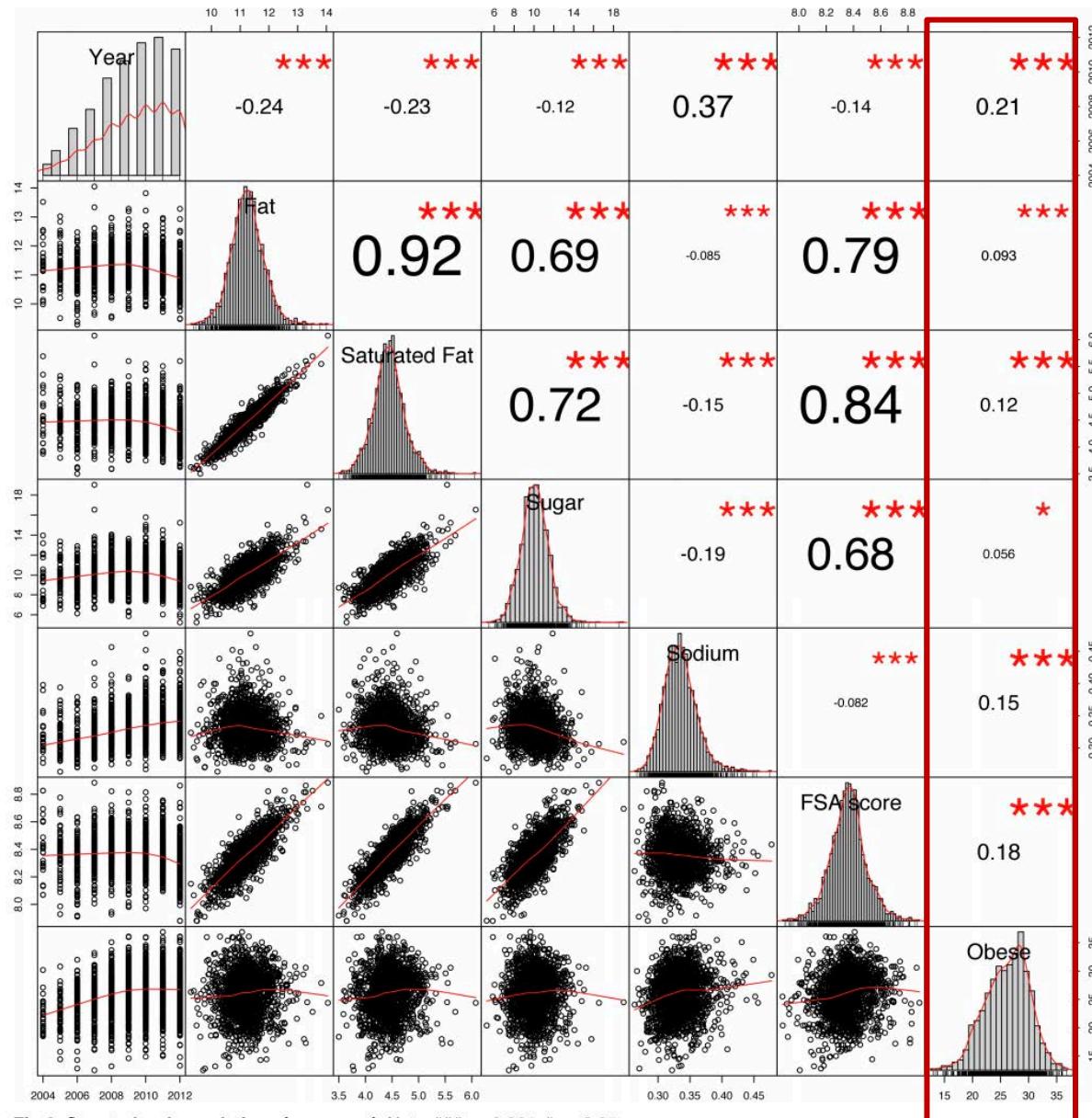


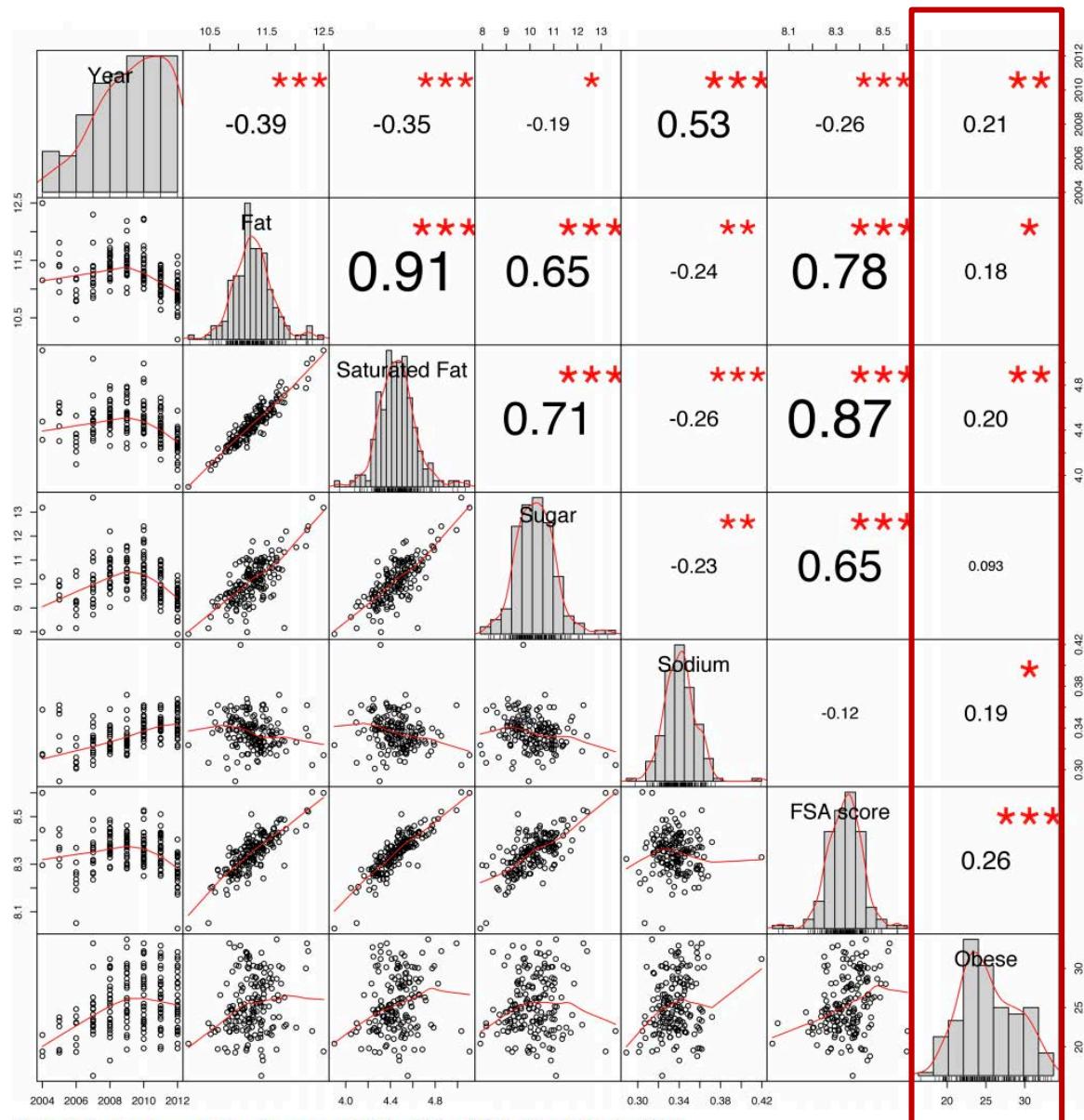
Fig 1. Linear trends of fat as a function of time (2004–2012) for selected states in the US. The plots show a variety of intercepts and trends (slopes) over time. The general aggregated trend is shown with a dashed line.

RQ1. To what extent do the nutritional properties of bookmarked recipes on Allrecipes.com correlate with obesity levels in the US?

# County Level Correlations



# State Level Correlations


 Fig 5. State-level correlations (spearman). Note: \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \* $p < 0.05$ .

RQ2. To what extent can temporal or geographical factors help in explaining obesity patterns?

RQ3. To what extent do nutrition factors explain the variance in obesity rates across the US?

**Table 2. Multilevel models for obesity.** Models 3 and 4 incorporate a random intercept per county/state, a random slope for year, and fixed effects for the FSA score and Fat and Sugar. A likelihood ratio test shows significant differences between the models: Model 1 vs Model 2:  $\chi^2(5) = 585.64, p < 0.001$ ; Model 2 vs Model 3:  $\chi^2(1) = 23.91, p < 0.001$ ; Model 3 vs Model 4:  $\chi^2(1) = 14.67, p < 0.001$ . For the fixed effects, the number in parenthesis shows the standard error.

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
<i>Variance Components</i>				
Var: county:State (Intercept)	8.90	9.01	8.84	9.02
Var: State (Intercept)	4.87	5.35	5.28	5.31
Var: Residual	1.79	0.97	0.96	0.94
Var: County:State Year		0.09	0.09	0.09
Cov: County:State (Intercept) Year		-0.28	-0.27	-0.28
Var: State Year		0.00	0.00	0.00
Cov: State (Intercept) Year		-0.04	-0.04	-0.04
<i>Fixed Effects</i>				
(Intercept)	26.56*** (0.39)	24.89*** (0.42)	14.27*** (2.20)	21.74*** (0.83)
Year		0.30*** (0.03)	0.31*** (0.03)	0.32*** (0.03)
FSA score			1.26*** (0.26)	
Fat/100g				0.19* (0.08)
Sugar/100g				0.08* (0.03)
AIC	6796.61	6226.47	6205.44	6200.72
BIC	6818.30	6275.28	6259.68	6260.38
Log Likelihood	-3394.31	-3104.23	-3092.72	-3089.36
Num. obs.	1675	1675	1675	1675
Num. groups: county:state	311	311	311	311
Num. groups: state	47	47	47	47

Note:	Baseline	Baseline+	Baseline+	Baseline+
*** $p < 0.001$ ,		Time	Time + FSA	Time + Fat + Sugar
* $p < 0.05$				

# Conclusion

- **We demonstrate significant and meaningful** (i.e. sensibly interpretable) **relationships** between the nutritional properties of bookmarked recipes (sugar content, fat content and a combined FSA-score for recipes) and obesity incidence.
- The good fit achieved by our models suggests that combining interaction data, geographical data and temporal **data can be a useful in monitoring obesity incidence.**

# Part 5: Predicting Item Popularity

# Why do people like the unhealthy recipes more?

Trattner, C., Moesslang, D. and Elsweiler, D. **On the Predictability of the Popularity of Online Recipes.** EPJ Data Science, 2018.

# What makes a recipe actually to be chosen/popular?

...from the social psychology literature we know that there are several biases involved in when people cook or select food, e.g.

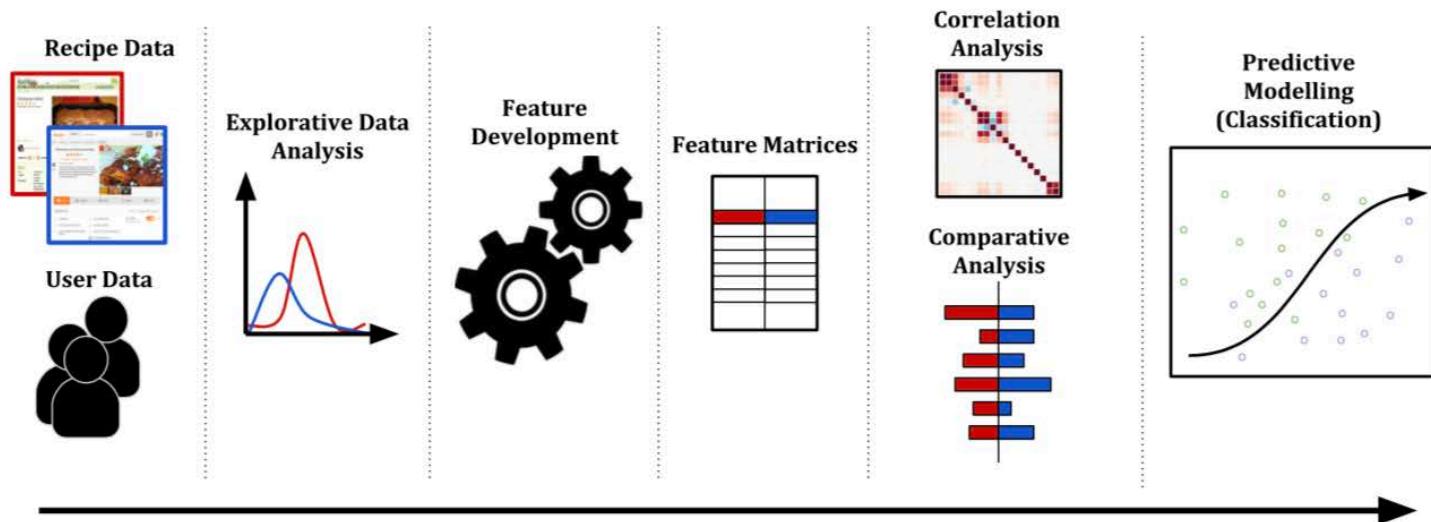
*social & cultural factors, season, healthiness, visual appeal*

Scheibehenne, B., Miesler, L., and Todd, P.M. (2007). Fast and frugal food choices: Uncovering individual decision heuristics. *Appetite*, 49, 578-589.

# Predicting Recipe Popularity

=

## Item Cold-Start Prediction



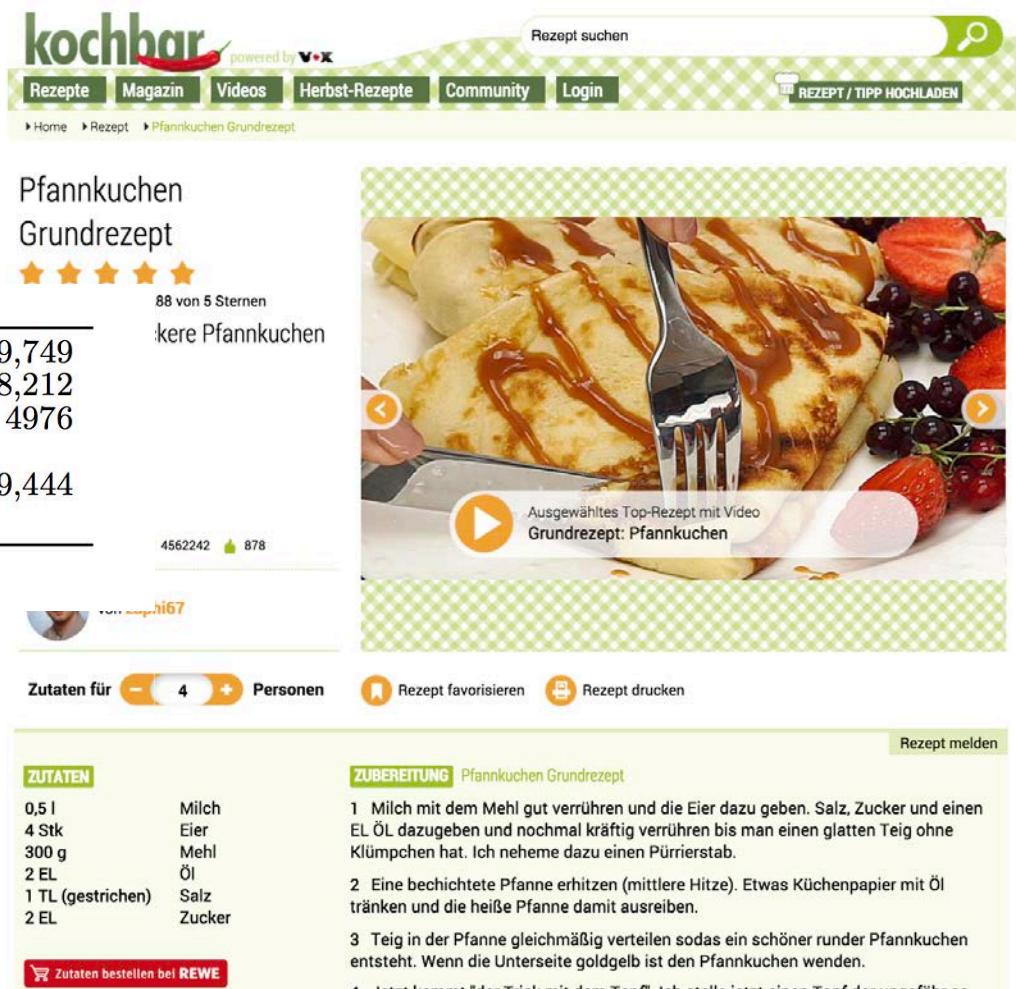
**Figure 1.1:** A schematic illustration of the approach to popularity prediction of online recipes

# Datasets

- Allrecipes.com
- Kochbar.de

recipes	405,868	users	199,749
ratings	7,794,868	publishing users	18,212
recipes with at least 10 ratings	240,518	users with at least 10 recipes	4976
ingredients	1485	ratings users	19,444
categories	246		

Table 1: Overview of the dataset.

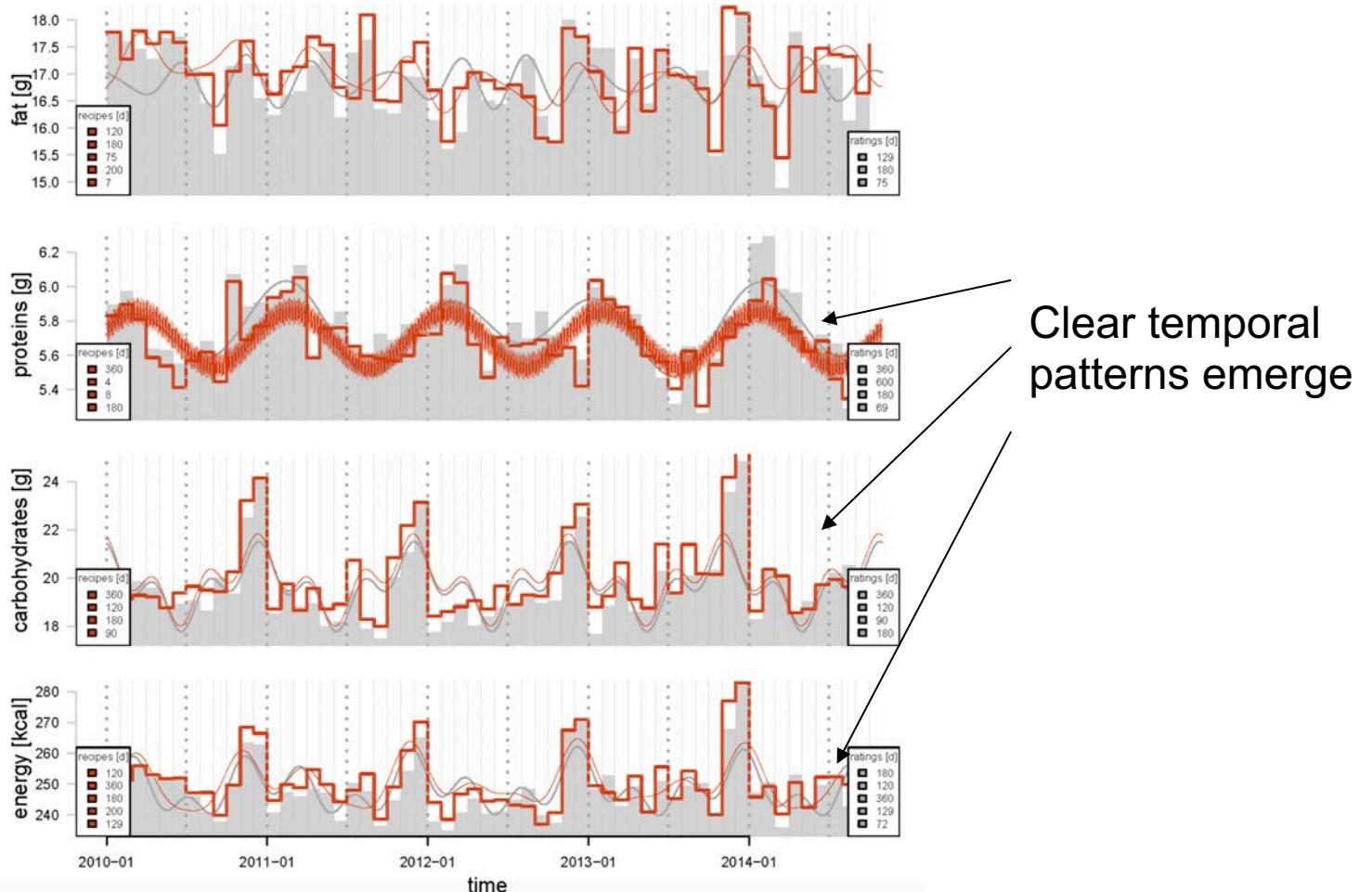


The screenshot shows a recipe page for "Pfannkuchen Grundrezept" (Pancake Basic Recipe) on the Kochbar.de website. The page includes a navigation bar with links like Rezepte, Magazin, Videos, Herbst-Rezepte, Community, Login, and Rezept suchen. Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: Home > Rezept > Pfannkuchen Grundrezept. A search bar and a "REZEPT / TIPP HOCHLAGEN" button are also present. The main content features a large image of a stack of pancakes with syrup and fruit. Below the image is a play button indicating a video is available. The recipe title is "Pfannkuchen Grundrezept" with a 5-star rating and 88 reviews. It lists ingredients for 4 people and provides preparation steps. A "Zutaten bestellen bei REWE" button is at the bottom left, and a "Rezept melden" button is at the bottom right.

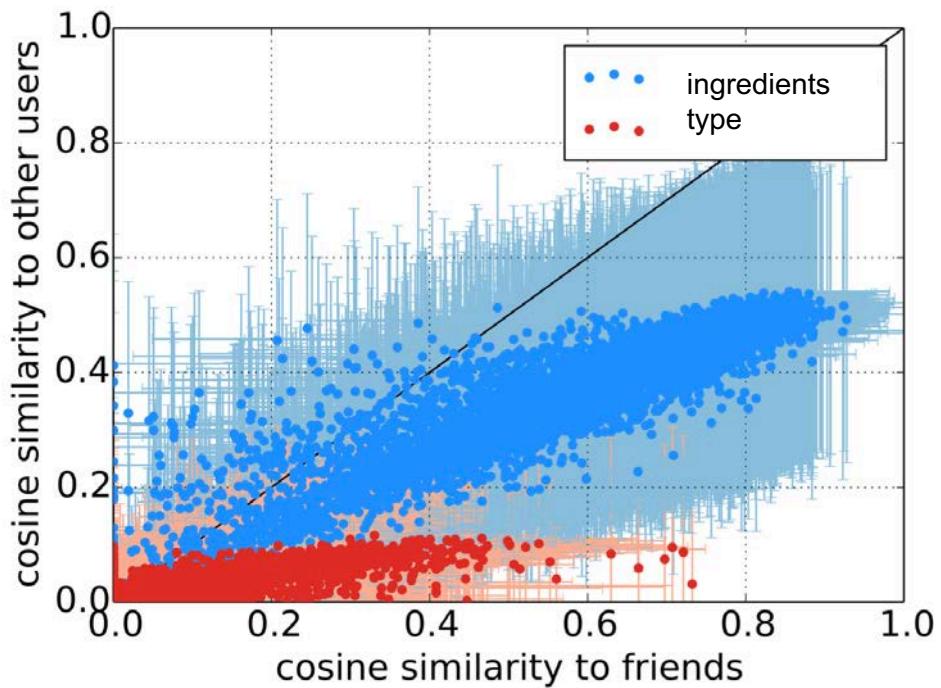
ZUTATEN	ZUBEREITUNG
0,5 l Milch	1. Milch mit dem Mehl gut verrühren und die Eier dazu geben. Salz, Zucker und einen EL Öl dazugeben und nochmal kräftig verrühren bis man einen glatten Teig ohne Klümchen hat. Ich nehme dazu einen Pürrerstab.
4 Stk Eier	2. Eine bechichtete Pfanne erhitzen (mittlere Hitze). Etwas Küchenpapier mit Öl tränken und die heiße Pfanne damit ausreiben.
300 g Mehl	3. Teig in der Pfanne gleichmäßig verteilen sodass ein schöner runder Pfannkuchen entsteht. Wenn die Unterseite goldgelb ist den Pfannkuchen wenden.
2 EL Öl	4. Jetzt kommt "der Trick mit dem Topf". Ich stelle jetzt einen Topf der ungefähr so
1 TL (gestrichen) Salz	
2 EL Zucker	

# Factors

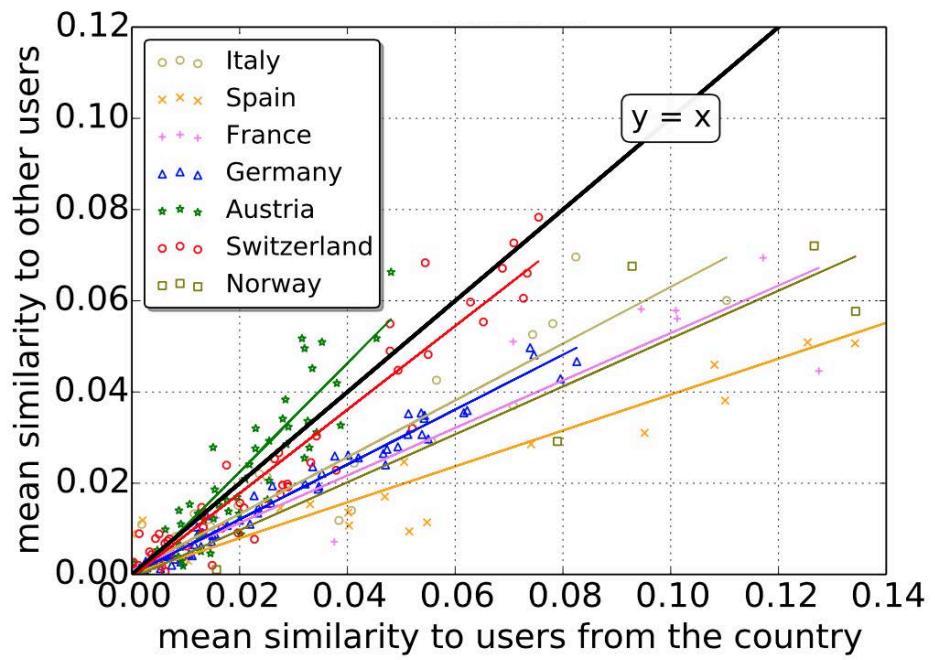
# Temporality?



# Homophilie?



# Location?



# Visual Attractiveness?



**Figure 1:** “Attractive” (upper row) vs. “Unattractive” (lower row) images: Each column represents the same semantic concept (animal, landscape, portrait, flower) but differences in appeal-related visual attributes.

San Pedro J, Siersdorfer S (2009) Ranking and classifying attractiveness of photos in folksonomies. In: Proceedings of the 18th international conference on world wide web. WWW '09. ACM, New York, pp 771–780

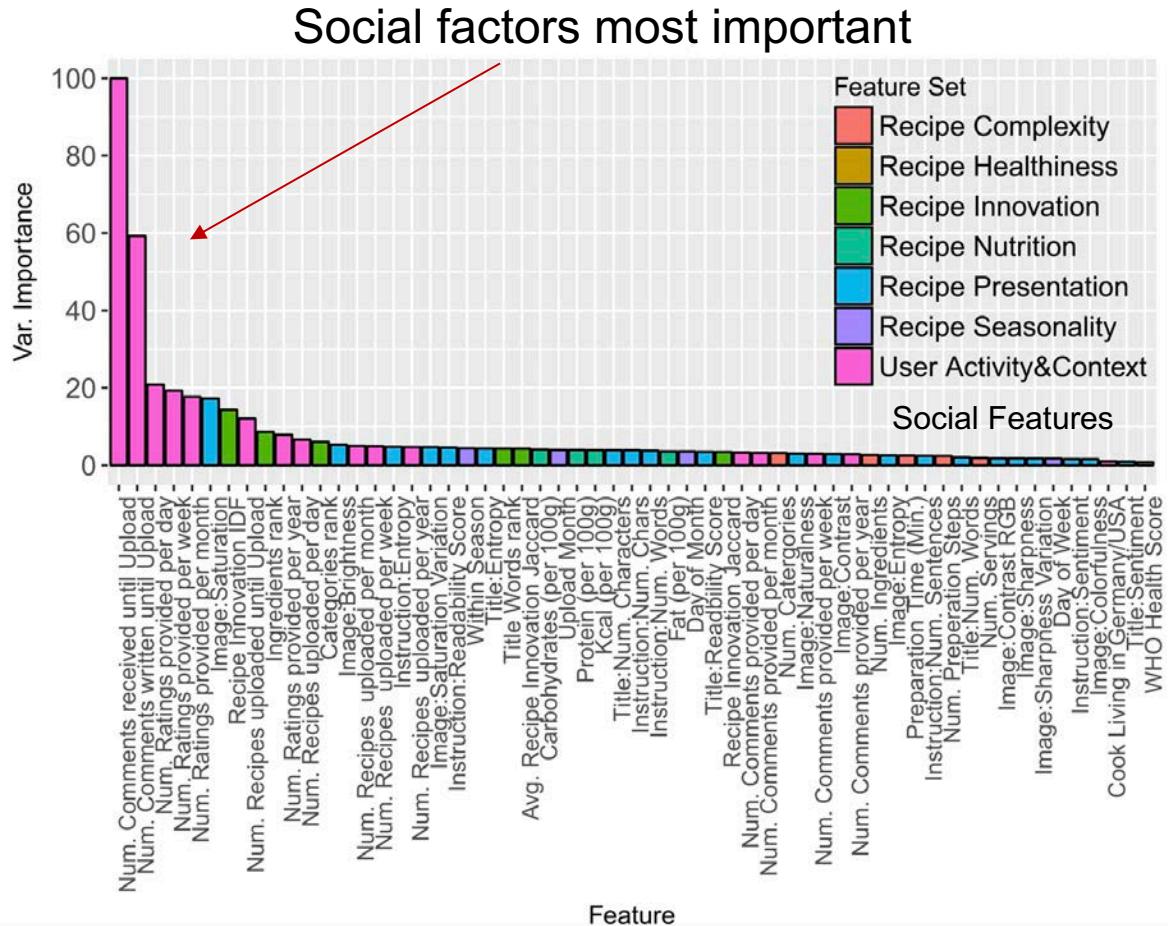
# Other factors

- Recipe complexity
  - Instruction: Num. Words
  - Instruction: Num. Sentences
  - Entropy
  - LIX
- Recipe innovation

$$\text{recipe\_innovation\_IDF} = \frac{1}{|I_r|} \sum_{i \in I_r} \text{ing\_rareness}_i$$

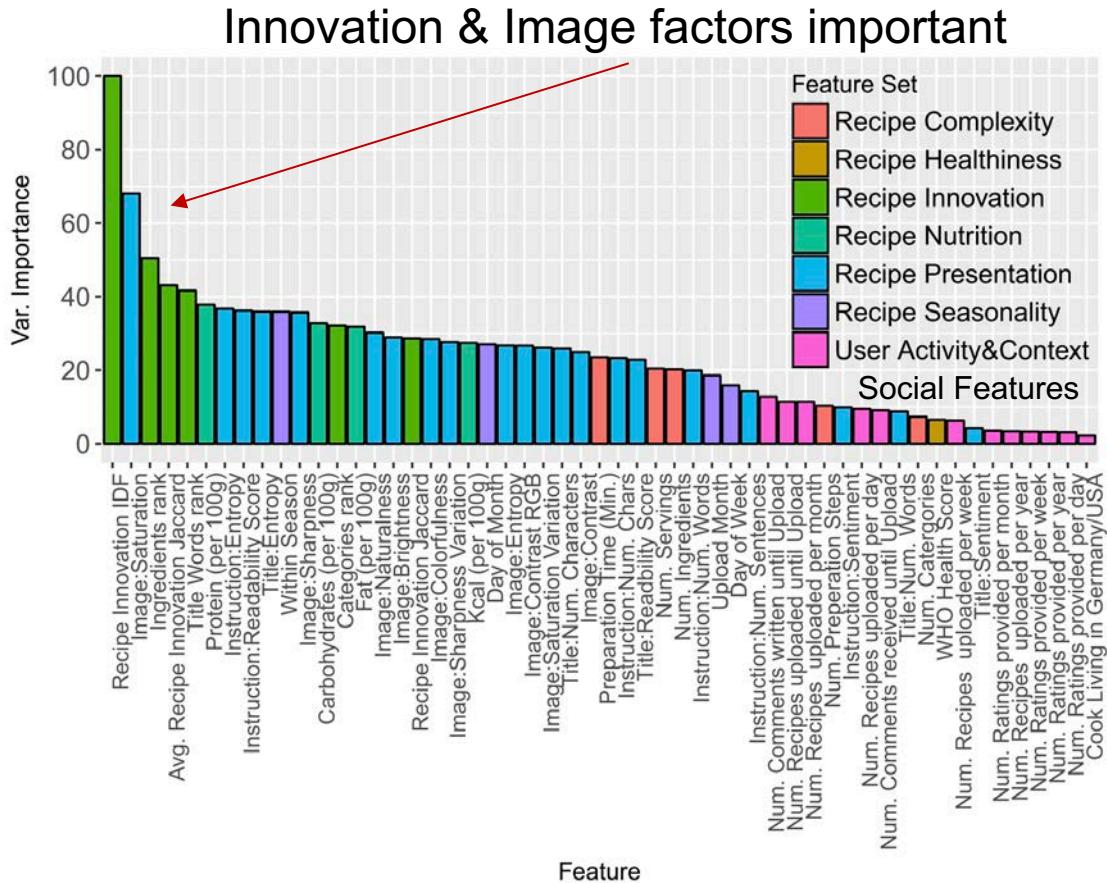
$$\text{recipe\_innovation\_jaccard} = 1 - \max_{r' < r} \frac{|\{i : i \in r \wedge i \in r'\}|}{|\{i : i \in r \vee i \in r'\}|},$$

# Predicting popularity: Kochbar.de



Random Forrest:  
90% accuracy

# Predicting popularity: Allrecipes.com



Random Forrest  
70% accuracy

# How about other food cultures?

Zhang, Q., Trattner, C., Elsweiler, D. and Ludwig, B. **Identifying Cross-Cultural Visual Food Tastes with Online Recipe Platforms.** In Proceedings of the 11th International AAAI conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), 2019.

# China?



(a) *Xiachufang*: High ( $\uparrow$ ) prediction scores



(b) *Xiachufang*: Low ( $\downarrow$ ) prediction scores

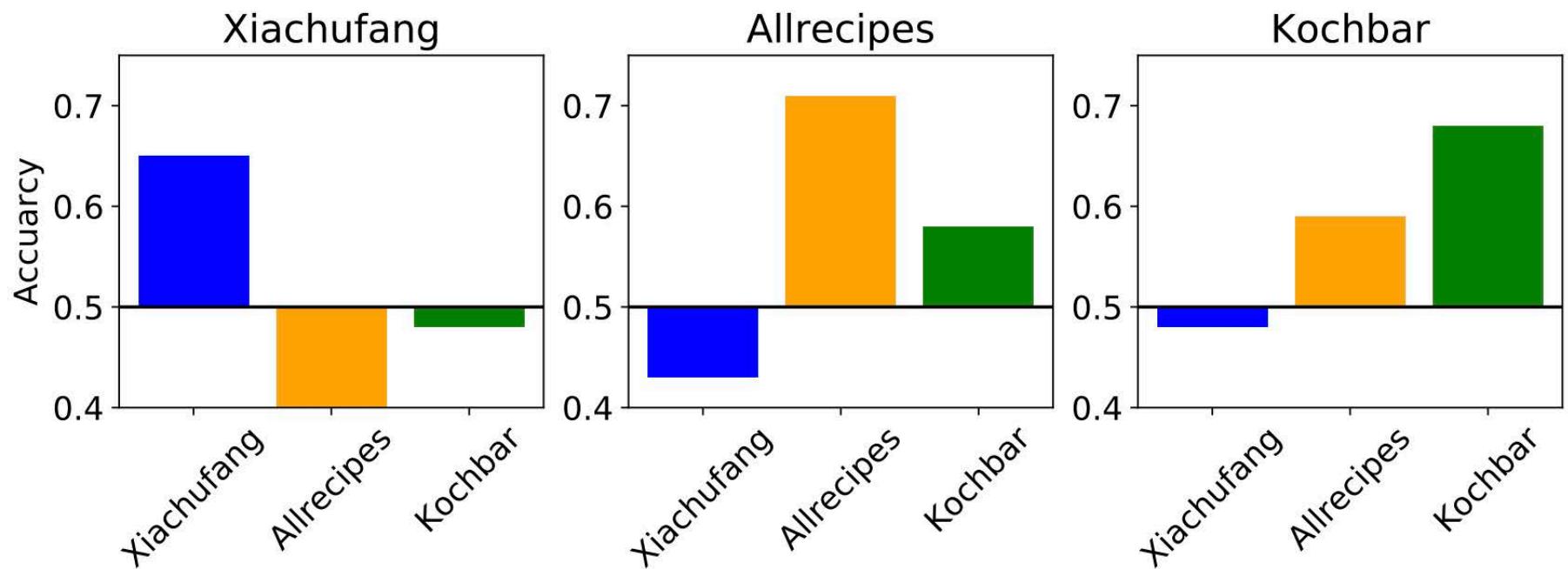


(c) *Allrecipes*: High ( $\uparrow$ ) prediction scores



(d) *Allrecipes*: Low ( $\downarrow$ ) prediction scores

# Cross-Country Prediction



# Part 6: Factors & Food RecSys

# How would these features work in a recommendation scenario?

Trattner, C., Kusmierczyk, T. and Norvag, K. **Investigating and Predicting Online Food Recipe Upload Behavior.** Information Processing and Management. 2019.

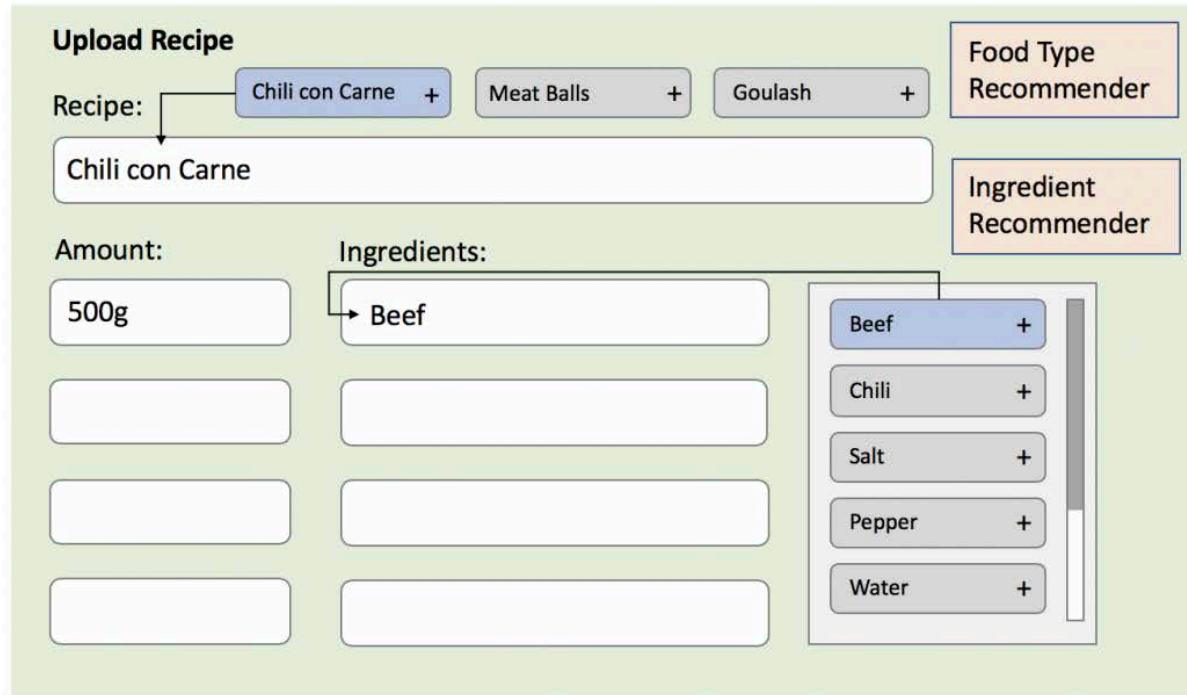


Figure 1: Example of an intelligent user interface that tries to support the user in the recipe upload process by recommending food type and corresponding ingredients to cook this meal.

# Predicting the top-3 food of recipe a user would upload

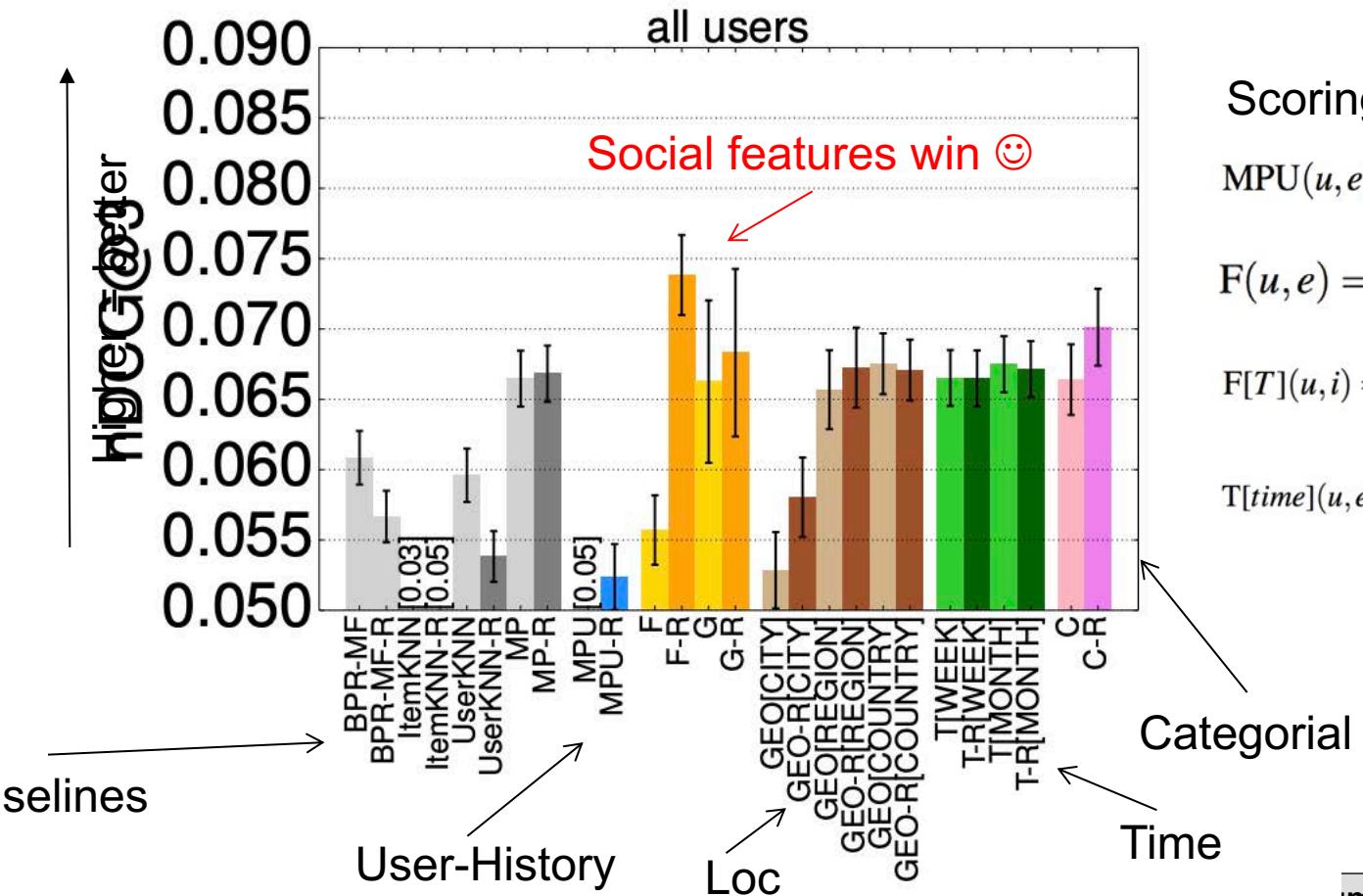
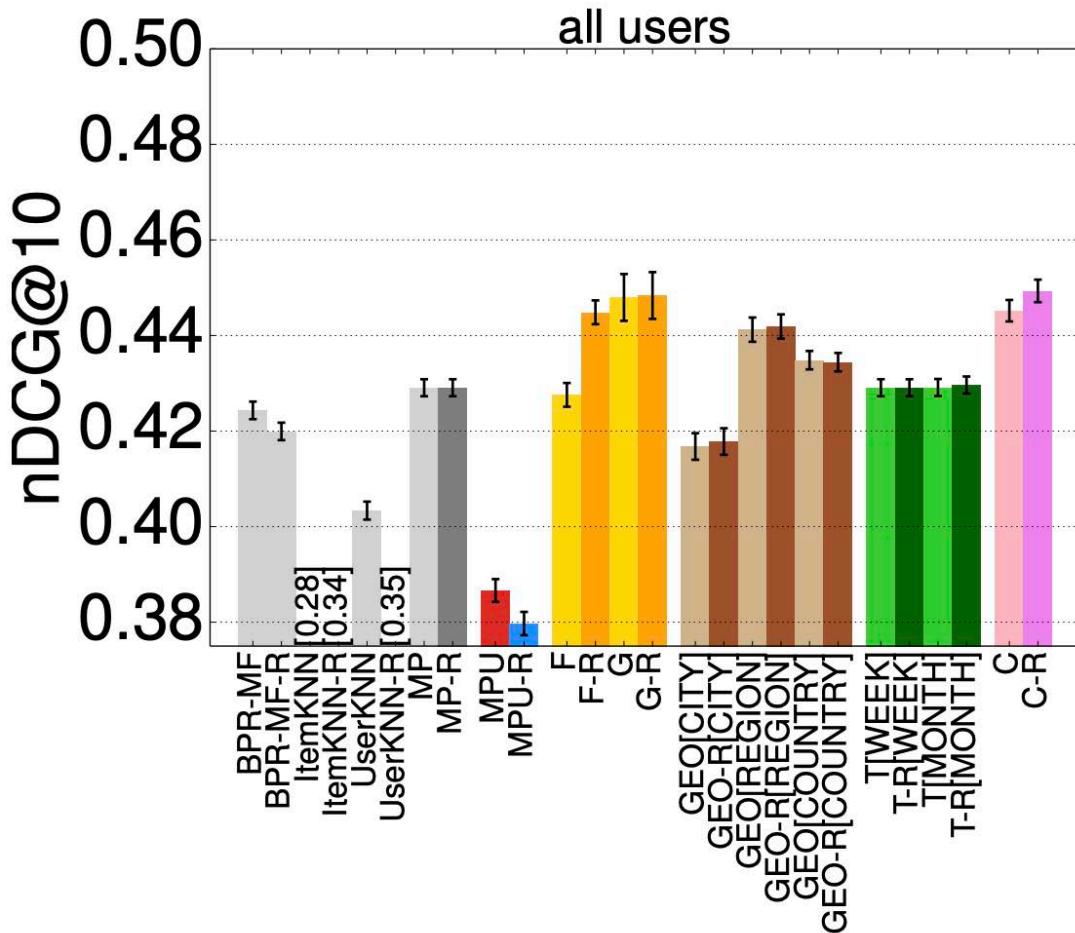


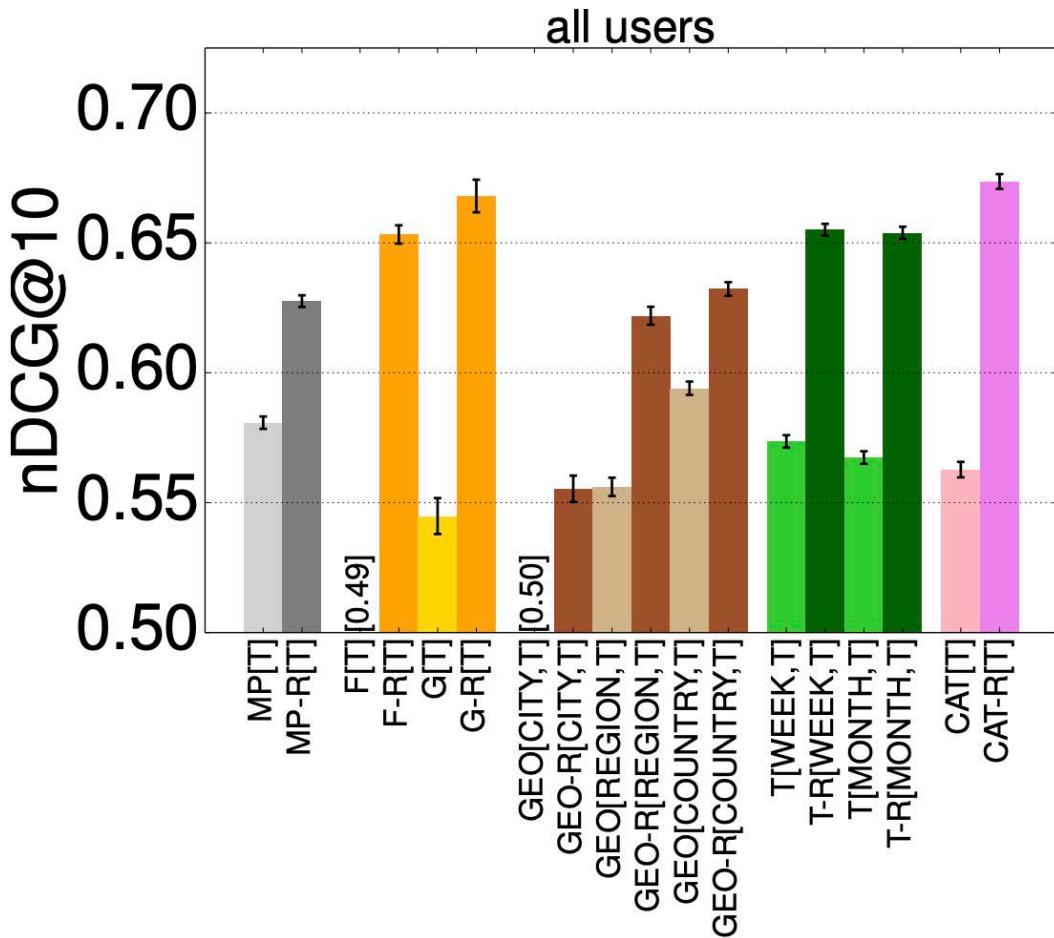
Figure 16: Food types prediction quality (means and standard errors) for all users. Colors indicate different groups of methods.

# Predicting Top-10 Ingredients



a) Prediction of ingredients when food type is unknown.

# Predicting Top-10 Ingredients



b) Prediction of ingredients when food type is known.

# Other Factors!

## Gender & Food?

# Impact of gender



Prof. Dr. Eva Barlösius

Head of [Leibniz Forschungszentrum Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft \(LCSS\)](#)



Rocicki, M., Herder, E., Kusmierczyk, T. and Trattner, C. Plate and Prejudice: Gender Differences in Online Cooking. In Proceedings of the International Conference on User Modeling and Personalisation (UMAP), 2016.

# Hypotheses

H1. Men Are Better Cooks

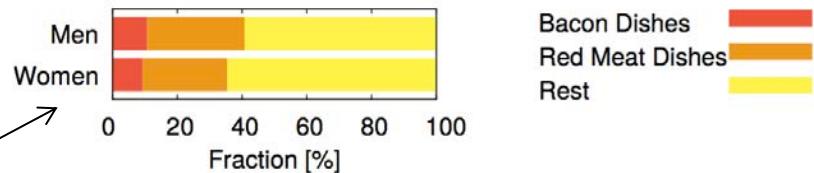
H2. Men Cook for Impressing

H3. Women Prefer to Cook Sweet Dishes,  
Men Prefer to Cook Meat Dishes

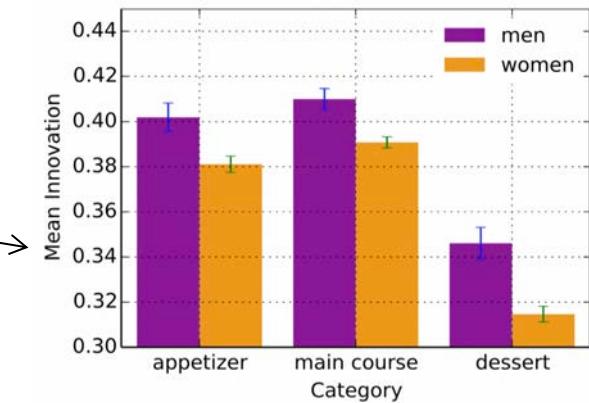
H4. Women Use Spices More Subtly

H5. Men Use More Gadgets for Cooking

H6. Men Are More Innovative

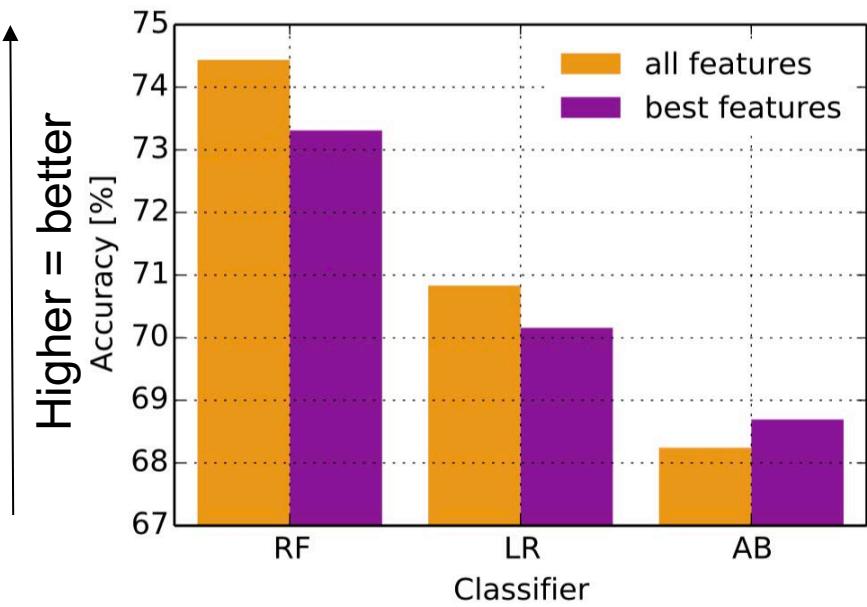


Among recipes published by female cooks, 16.5% were identified as sweet dishes, significantly more than the fraction of 7.8% for male cooks

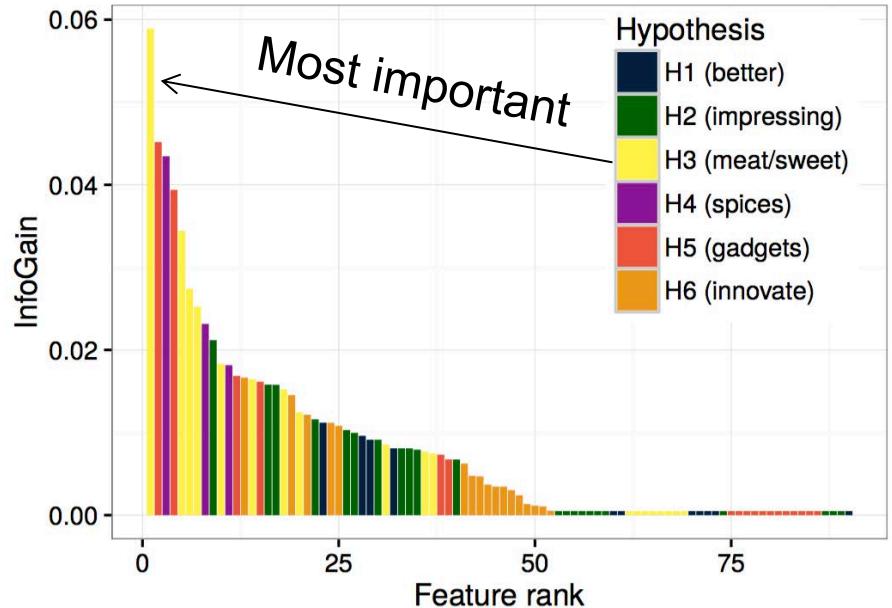


# To what extent can we identify the gender of the recipe authors?

Classification Results

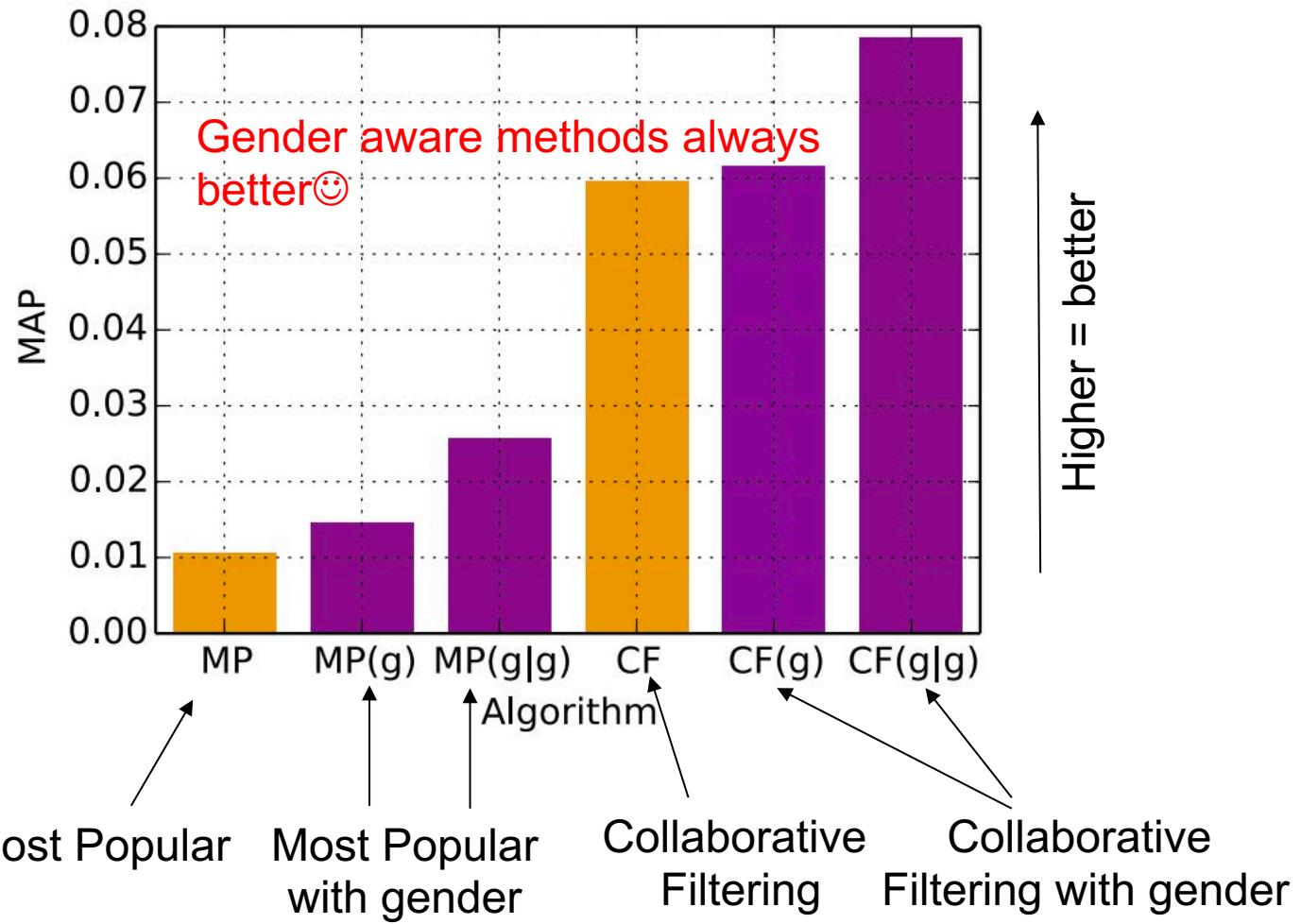


Feature Importance



RF=Random Forrest, LR=Logistic Regression, AB=Ada Boost

# Gender-aware recommendations (predicting the recipes a user will like)



# Part 7: Altering Food Choice

# Can we alter food choices with recommenders?

# Study

Elsweiler, D.\* , Trattner, C.\* and Harvey, M. (\* equal contribution). **Exploiting Food Choice Biases for Healthier Recipe Recommendation.** In Proceedings of the ACM SIGIR Conference (SIGIR), 2017.

# Which one of the two would you choose?



**Title**

Strawberry Rhubarb Custard Pie

**User feedback**

5 stars  
80 made it | 62 reviews

Recipe by: Chef John  
31K

"One of the most delicious and easiest pie recipes I know. I got this wonderful recipe from my mother Pauline, who I believe got it from my Aunt Angela. I love all their pies, but this might be my favorite."

**Image**



**Ingredients**

+ 1 (9 inch) unbaked pie crust (see footnote for recipe link)	+ 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
+ 3 cups rhubarb, sliced 1/4-inch thick	+ 1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
+ 1 cup fresh strawberries, quartered	+ 1 tablespoon butter, diced
+ 3 large eggs	+ 2 tablespoons strawberry jam
+ 1 1/2 cups white sugar	+ 1/4 teaspoon water

**Nutrition**

Nutrition		
Amount per serving (8 total)		
Calories:	342 kcal	17%
Fat:	11.1 g	17%
Carbs:	57.4g	19%
Protein:	4.8 g	10%
Cholesterol:	74 mg	25%
Sodium:	159 mg	6%

2 h 20 m 8 servings 342 cals

# User Study

Q: Which one of the two would you choose?

## Recipe 1

### Italian Style Pork Chops



#### Ingredients

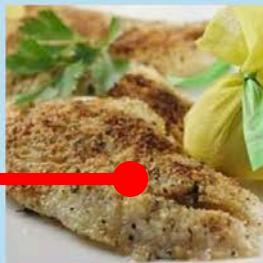
3 cups crushed saltine crackers  
2 cups grated Parmesan cheese  
1 tablespoon Italian-style seasoning  
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder  
1 cup butter, melted  
6 pork chops

#### Directions

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C).  
In a medium bowl, combine the crushed saltines, Parmesan cheese, Italian-style seasoning and garlic powder and mix together well.  
Dip the chops in the melted butter and then dredge each chop in the cracker mixture, coating all sides thoroughly. Place the chops

## Recipe 2

### Baked Orange Roughy Italian-Style



#### Ingredients

1/4 cup Italian seasoned bread crumbs  
2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese  
2 tablespoons grated Romano cheese  
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt or to taste  
1 pound orange roughy fillets  
1/4 cup butter, melted  
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

#### Directions

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Coat a medium baking dish with non-stick cooking spray.  
In a shallow bowl, mix bread crumbs, Parmesan cheese, Romano cheese, garlic powder, and salt.

User Study 1

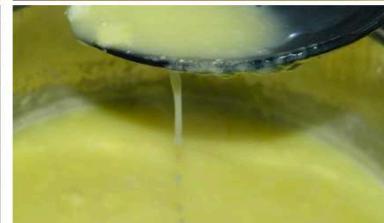
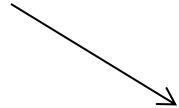
User Study 2

Feature Set	Accuracy			
	Rand.For.	Logistic	Naive Bay.	Num. Feat.
Study 1 (Instances = 1102)				
Title	49.18%	48.63%	49.36%	54
Image	<b>64.25%</b>	<b>58.43%</b>	<b>60.16%</b>	10
Ingredients	62.25%	57.89%	55.71%	12
Nutr.	<b>64.25%</b>	58.25%	54.99%	12
Pop. & Appr	64.15%	55.53%	57.89%	8
Best (Top-10)	64.24%	60.61%	60.79%	10
All	64.33%	63.06%	63.52%	96
Study 2 (Instances = 1181)				
Title	48.43%	48.09%	49.87%	54
Image	<b>66.21%</b>	<b>61.64%</b>	<b>59.61%</b>	10
Ingredients	64.35%	60.96%	53.51%	12
Nutr.	65.96%	58.59%	54.19%	12
Pop. & Appr	65.96%	59.52%	58.59%	8
Best (Top-10)	66.04%	64.86%	61.05%	10
All	66.04%	64.86%	61.05%	96

# Nudging People Towards Healthy Food Choices

Developed an algorithm that can nudge people towards healthy food choices through images 😊

Less fat



More fat

**Exploiting Food Choice Biases for Healthier Recipe Recommendation.** Elsweiler, D.\* , Trattner, C.\* and Harvey, M. (\* equal contribution). In Proceedings of the ACM SIGIR Conference (SIGIR), 2017.

# Part 8: Recommending Similar Food

# How can I build a simple similar item recommender for food?

# Problem

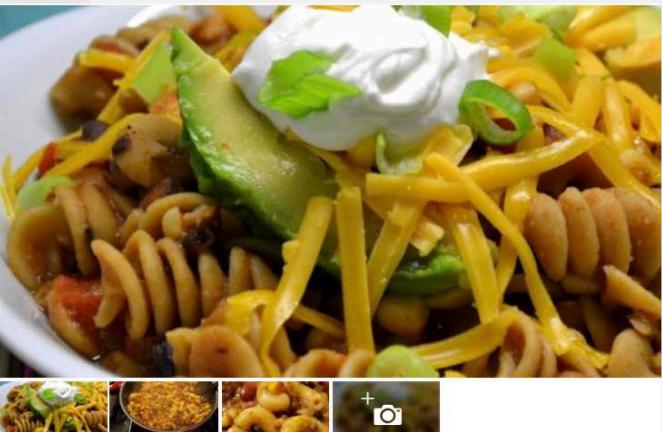
**allrecipes**

BROWSE ▾ Find a recipe Ingredient Search   

Home > Recipes > Soups, Stews and Chili > Chili > Vegetarian

**Title** Carole's Chili Mac   
17 made it | 4 reviews | 3 photos

Recipe by: Carole Moritz  
 3 "This is a vegetarian version with added pasta for those pasta lovers. I love the taste of the cumin in this recipe."

**Image** 

**Similar Item Recommendations**

Explore more







Pub-Style Vegetarian Chili    Gramma's Old Fashioned Chili Mac    Chili Macaroni Casserole    Chili Mac, Mexican Style    Vegetarian Chili  
67 recipes

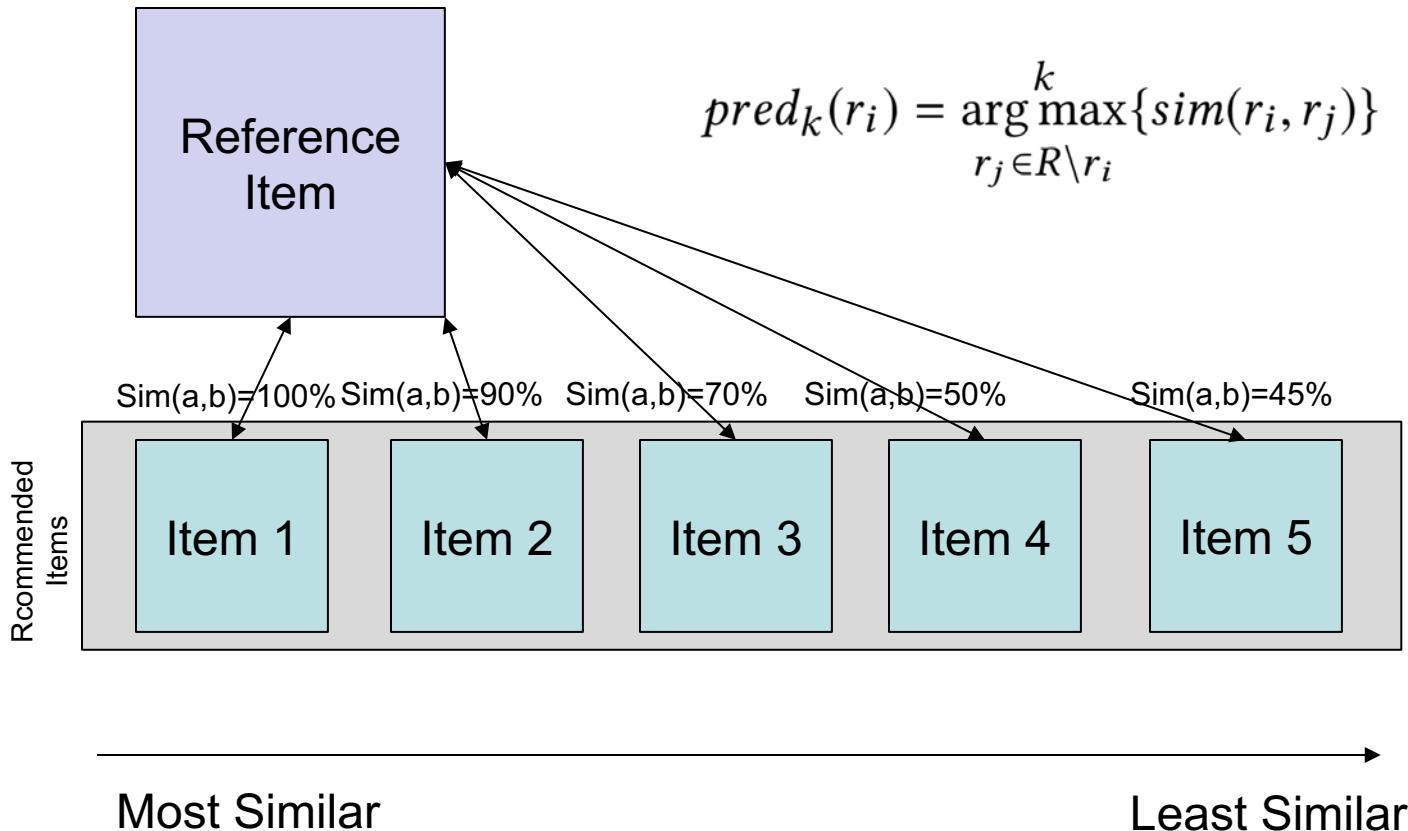
## Ingredients

- Ingredients 
- + 2 cups whole wheat elbow macaroni
  - + 1 teaspoon ground cumin
  - + 2 teaspoons olive oil
  - + 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
  - + 1 small onion, chopped
  - + 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
  - + 2 green bell peppers, chopped
  - + 1 (15 ounce) can white kidney beans, drained and rinsed
  - + 2 cloves garlic, minced
  - + 1 (15 ounce) can black beans, drained and rinsed
  - + 1 (14.5 ounce) can diced tomatoes, undrained
  - + 1 (8 ounce) can tomato sauce
  - + 3/4 cup shredded reduced-fat Cheddar cheese
  - + 1 (12 ounce) can whole kernel corn, drained
  - + 2 tablespoons chopped green onion, or to taste
  - + 1 tablespoon hot pepper sauce, or to taste
  - + 2 tablespoons chopped green onion, or to taste (optional)

## Directions

-  Prep 15 m  Cook 50 m  Ready in 1 h 5 m
- 1 Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Cook elbow macaroni in the boiling water until cooked through but firm to the bite, 10 to 12 minutes. Drain.
  - 2 Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat; cook and stir onion, green bell peppers, and garlic in the hot oil until onion is softened, 5 to 10 minutes.
  - 3 Mix tomatoes and their juices, tomato sauce, hot pepper sauce, chili powder, cumin, cayenne pepper, and black pepper into onion mixture; bring to a boil. Add kidney beans, black beans, and corn; reduce heat to low, cover skillet, and simmer chili for 30 minutes.
  - 4 Stir macaroni into chili, cover skillet, and simmer until macaroni is heated, 5 minutes; top with Cheddar cheese and green onions to serve.

# Problem



# Paper

Trattner, C. and Jannach, D. **Learning to Recommend Similar Items from Human Judgements.** User Modeling and User-Adapted Interaction Journal. 2019.

# Research Questions

- **RQ1.** Which types of features and which specific features determine the similarity between items as perceived by users?
- **RQ2.** Which specific combination of features is suited to predicting user-perceived similarity levels?
- **RQ3.** Do models with higher prediction accuracy lead to a higher perceived item similarity?
- **RQ4.** How do users assess the usefulness of recommendations that are based on different similarity functions?

# What makes recipes similar?

$sim(a,b)$ 

### Linguine Pasta with Shrimp and Tomatoes



#### Ingredients

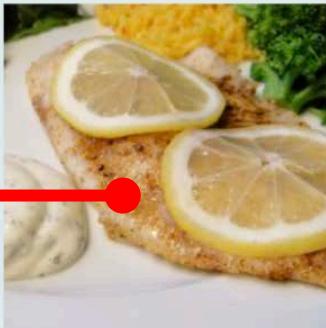
2 tablespoons olive oil  
 3 cloves garlic, minced  
 4 cups diced tomatoes  
 1 cup dry white wine  
 2 tablespoons butter  
 salt and black pepper to taste  
 1 (16 ounce) package linguine pasta  
 1 pound peeled and deveined medium shrimp  
 1 teaspoon Cajun seasoning  
 2 tablespoons olive oil

#### Directions

Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a large saucépan over medium heat. Stir in the garlic, cook 2 minutes. Add the tomatoes, and wine. Bring to a simmer and cook 30 minutes, stirring frequently. Once the tomatoes have simmered into a sauce, stir in the butter and season with salt and pepper. Fill a large pot with lightly-salted water, bring to a rolling boil, stir in the linguine and return to a boil. Cook the pasta uncovered, stirring occasionally, until the pasta has cooked through but is still firm to the bite,

 $sim(a,b)$ 

### Hudson's Baked Tilapia with Dill Sauce



#### Ingredients

4 (4 ounce) fillets tilapia  
 salt and pepper to taste  
 1 tablespoon Cajun seasoning, or to taste  
 1 lemon, thinly sliced  
 1/4 cup mayonnaise  
 1/2 cup sour cream  
 1/8 teaspoon garlic powder  
 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice  
 2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill

#### Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a 9x13 inch baking dish. Season the tilapia fillets with salt, pepper and Cajun seasoning on both sides. Arrange the seasoned fillets in a single layer in the baking dish. Place a layer of lemon slices over the fish fillets. I usually use about 2 slices on each piece so that it covers most of the surface of the fish. Bake uncovered for 15 to 20 minutes in the preheated oven, or until fish flakes easily with a fork.

 $sim(a,b)$ 
 $sim(a,b)$

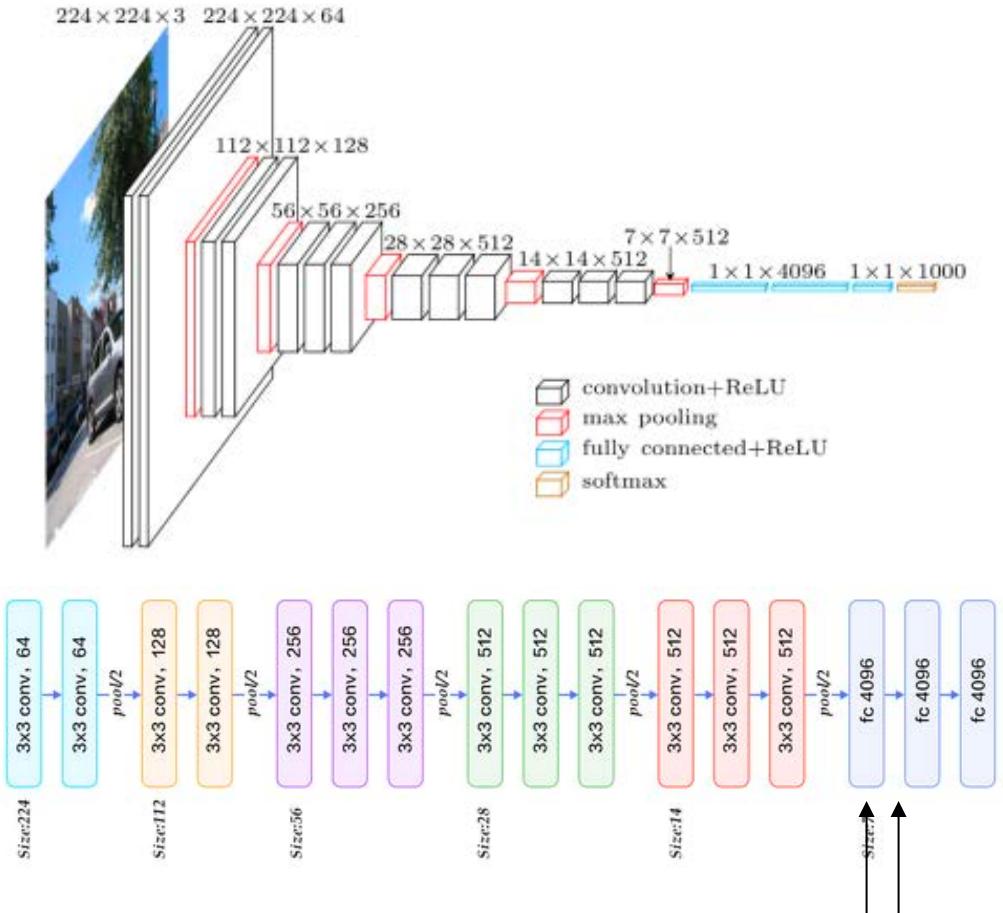
# Features for Similar Recipe Recommendations

**Table 1: Similarity metrics computed based on recipe titles, images, ingredients and cooking directions.**

Name	Metric	Explanation
Title:LV	$sim(r_i, r_j) = 1 -  dist_{LEV}(r_i, r_j) $	Title Levenshtein distance-based similarity
Title:JW	$sim(r_i, r_j) = 1 -  dist_{JW}(r_i, r_j) $	Title Jaro-Winkler distance-based similarity
Title:LCS	$sim(r_i, r_j) = 1 -  dist_{LCS}(r_i, r_j) $	Title Least Common Subsequence distance-based similarity
Title:BI	$sim(r_i, r_j) = 1 -  dist_{BI}(r_i, r_j) $	Title Bi-gram distance-based similarity
Title:LDA	$sim(r_i, r_j) = \frac{LDA(\text{Title}(r_i)) \cdot LDA(\text{Title}(r_j))}{\ LDA(\text{Title}(r_i))\  \ LDA(\text{Title}(r_j))\ }$	Title LDA cosine-based similarity (LDA = LDA vector)
Image:BR	$sim(r_i, r_j) = 1 -  BR(r_i) - BR(r_j) $	Image Brightness distance-based similarity
Image:SH	$sim(r_i, r_j) = 1 -  SH(r_i) - SH(r_j) $	Image Sharpness distance-based similarity
Image:CO	$sim(r_i, r_j) = 1 -  CO(r_i) - CO(r_j) $	Image Contrast distance-based similarity
Image:COL	$sim(r_i, r_j) = 1 -  COL(r_i) - COL(r_j) $	Image Colorfulness distance-based similarity
Image:EN	$sim(r_i, r_j) = 1 -  EN(r_i) - EN(r_j) $	Image Entropy distance-based similarity
Image:EMB	$sim(r_i, r_j) = \frac{EMB(r_i) \cdot EMB(r_j)}{\ EMB(r_i)\  \ EMB(r_j)\ }$	Image Embedding cosine-based similarity (EMB= image embedding vector)
Ing:COS	$sim(r_i, r_j) = \frac{amount(\text{Ing}(r_i)) \cdot amount(\text{Ing}(r_j))}{\ amount(\text{Ing}(r_i))\  \ amount(\text{Ing}(r_j))\ }$	Ingredients Cosine similarity (amount-based weighting in grams per 100g of a meal)
Ing:JACC	$sim(r_i, r_j) = \frac{ \{Ing(r_i)\} \cap \{Ing(r_j)\} }{ \{Ing(r_i)\} \cup \{Ing(r_j)\} }$	Ingredients Jaccard similarity
Ing:TFIDF	$sim(r_i, r_j) = \frac{TFIDF(\text{Ing}(r_i)) \cdot TFIDF(\text{Ing}(r_j))}{\ TFIDF(\text{Ing}(r_i))\  \ TFIDF(\text{Ing}(r_j))\ }$	Ingredients Text-based cosine similarity (TFIDF = TF-IDF weighted vector)
Ing:LDA	$sim(r_i, r_j) = \frac{LDA(\text{Ing}(r_i)) \cdot LDA(\text{Ing}(r_j))}{\ LDA(\text{Ing}(r_i))\  \ LDA(\text{Ing}(r_j))\ }$	Ingredients LDA-based cosine similarity (LDA = LDA vector)
Dir:TFIDF	$sim(r_i, r_j) = \frac{TFIDF(\text{Dir}(r_i)) \cdot TFIDF(\text{Dir}(r_j))}{\ TFIDF(\text{Dir}(r_i))\  \ TFIDF(\text{Dir}(r_j))\ }$	Cooking Directions Text-based cosine similarity (TFIDF = TF-IDF weighted vector)
Dir:LDA	$sim(r_i, r_j) = \frac{LDA(\text{Dir}(r_i)) \cdot LDA(\text{Dir}(r_j))}{\ LDA(\text{Dir}(r_i))\  \ LDA(\text{Dir}(r_j))\ }$	Cooking Directions LDA cosine-based similarity (LDA = LDA vector)

# Example Image Features

# DNN Images Features: VGG 16



Take these layers for classification (fc1 or fc2)

$$\text{similarity} = \cos(\theta) = \frac{\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B}}{\|\mathbf{A}\| \|\mathbf{B}\|} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n A_i B_i}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n A_i^2} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n B_i^2}},$$

# VGG16 Implementation

```
1  # cstrattner Oct 16 2018
2  # VGG16 feature extraction
3  import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
4  import numpy as np
5  np.random.seed(2018)
6  from keras.applications.vgg16 import VGG16
7  from keras.applications.vgg16 import preprocess_input
8  from keras.preprocessing import image
9  from keras.models import Model
10 import glob
11 import os
12
13 # load pre-trained model
14 base_model = VGG16(weights='imagenet')
15 # pre-process the image
16 images = glob.glob("/Users/cstrattner/Desktop/Research/Movie-Data/images/*.jpg")
17
18 i = 0
19 for img_ in images:
20     print(img_)
21     i = i + 1
22     head, tail = os.path.split(img_)
23     print(tail)
24     print(i)
25     img = image.load_img(img_, target_size=(224, 224))
26     img = image.img_to_array(img)
27     img = np.expand_dims(img, axis=0)
28     img = preprocess_input(img)
29     # define model from base model for feature extraction from fc1 layer
30     model = Model(input=base_model.input, output=base_model.get_layer('fc1').output)
31     # obtain the output of fc1 layer
32     fc1_features = model.predict(img)
33     print("Feature vector dimensions: ", fc1_features)
34     f = open('/Users/cstrattner/Desktop/test.out', "a")
35     f.write(tail+",")
36     np.savetxt(f, fc1_features, delimiter=',', fmt='%.16f')
37     f.close()
```

# How did we collect the ground truth?

## A: Amazon's Mechanical Turk

# Amazon Mechanical Turk

URL: <https://www.mturk.com/>

- Crowdsourcing platform for micro task
- Founded March 2007- 100,000 workers in over 100 countries.
- 2011 - over 500,000 workers from over 190 countries in January 2011.
- Tasks = Hits
- Workers = Turkers

# What do I have to do

*...as a turker?*

# Mtruk.com - Worker

**mechanical turk**  
Artificial Artificial Intelligence

Your Account    HITs    Qualifications

Already have  
Sign in as a **Worker**

Introduction | Dashboard | Status | Account Settings

**Mechanical Turk is a marketplace for work.**  
We give businesses and developers access to an on-demand, scalable workforce.  
Workers select from thousands of tasks and work whenever it's convenient.  
**274,565 HITs** available. [View them now.](#)

## Make Money by working on HITs

HITs - *Human Intelligence Tasks* - are individual tasks that you work on. [Find HITs now.](#)

### As a Mechanical Turk Worker you:

- Can work from home
- Choose your own work hours
- Get paid for doing good work



or [learn more about being a Worker](#)

## Get Results from Mechanical Turk Workers

Ask workers to complete HITs - *Human Intelligence Tasks* - and get results using Mechanical Turk. [Get Started.](#)

### As a Mechanical Turk Requester you:

- Have access to a global, on-demand, 24 x 7 workforce
- Get thousands of HITs completed in minutes
- Pay only when you're satisfied with the results





All HITs | HITs Available To You | HITs Assigned To You

Find **HITs** containing

that pay at least \$ **0.00**

for which you are qualified

require Master Qualification

**GO**

## All HITs

1-10 of 1987 Results

Sort by: **HITs Available (most first)**

**GO!**

Show all details | Hide all details

1 2 3 4 5 > Next » Last

Provide Information about a Product				<a href="#">View a HIT in this group</a>
<b>Requester:</b> Instant.ly	<b>HIT Expiration Date:</b> Jan 13, 2015 (4 weeks 1 day)	<b>Reward:</b> \$0.05		
	<b>Time Allotted:</b> 25 minutes		<b>HITs Available:</b> 26593	
Extract purchased items from a shopping receipt				<a href="#">View a HIT in this group</a>
<b>Requester:</b> Jon Breig	<b>HIT Expiration Date:</b> Dec 21, 2014 (6 days 23 hours)	<b>Reward:</b> \$0.09		
	<b>Time Allotted:</b> 2 hours		<b>HITs Available:</b> 14392	
Extract purchased items from a shopping receipt				<a href="#">View a HIT in this group</a>
<b>Requester:</b> Jon Breig	<b>HIT Expiration Date:</b> Dec 21, 2014 (6 days 23 hours)	<b>Reward:</b> \$0.09		
	<b>Time Allotted:</b> 2 hours		<b>HITs Available:</b> 12047	
Geo Result Relevance-Sat Nov 29 21:39:03 PST 2014				<a href="#">View a HIT in this group</a>
<b>Requester:</b> Amazon Requester Inc.	<b>HIT Expiration Date:</b> Dec 30, 2014 (2 weeks 2 days)	<b>Reward:</b> \$0.00		
	<b>Time Allotted:</b> 60 minutes		<b>HITs Available:</b> 11713	
Describe 5 Images				<a href="#">View a HIT in this group</a>
<b>Requester:</b> Tagasauris	<b>HIT Expiration Date:</b> Jan 11, 2015 (4 weeks)	<b>Reward:</b> \$0.04		
	<b>Time Allotted:</b> 60 minutes		<b>HITs Available:</b> 11644	
Type the text from the images, carefully. Productivity and bonuses guaranteed.				<a href="#">View a HIT in this group</a>
<b>Requester:</b> CopyText Inc.	<b>HIT Expiration Date:</b> Dec 21, 2014 (6 days 23 hours)	<b>Reward:</b> \$0.01		
	<b>Time Allotted:</b> 10 minutes		<b>HITs Available:</b> 11580	
"Determine if a box is good (10 Questions)"				<a href="#">View a HIT in this group</a>
<b>Requester:</b> Images and Sentences	<b>HIT Expiration Date:</b> Dec 28, 2014 (2 weeks)	<b>Reward:</b> \$0.07		
	<b>Time Allotted:</b> 10 minutes		<b>HITs Available:</b> 11200	



All HITs | HITs Available To You | HITs Assigned To You

Find HITs containing

that pay at least \$ 0.00

for which you are qualified  
 require Master Qualification

GO

Timer: 00:00:00 of 25 minutes

Want to work on this HIT?

Accept HIT

Want to see other HITs?

Skip HIT

Total Earned: Unavailable

Total HITs Submitted: 0

Provide Information about a Product

Requester: Instant.ly

Reward: \$0.05 per HIT HITs Available: 26592 Duration: 25 minutes

Qualifications Required: Total approved HITs is not less than 5000; Product Image Data Collection is not less than 90; HIT approval rate (%) is not less than 99; Location is US

FAQ new

Send Feedback

## Provide Information about a Product

Click to show/hide instructions

External Link:[http://s3.amazonaws.com/sb001/survey/media/images/d7a755be-7f66-4ccd-84d1-11e7c5c291ea\\_original.jpg](http://s3.amazonaws.com/sb001/survey/media/images/d7a755be-7f66-4ccd-84d1-11e7c5c291ea_original.jpg)

1

How is the product picture provided? (required)

- Picture is good or partially good to use (even rotated)
- Picture does not load, broken link
- Picture loads but overall resolution is too low to view (only check this IF none of the requested attribute can be identified)
- Picture is flipped or corrupted, all black, etc
- Others (if checked, pls use bottom Comment box to tell us why)

Note: If some of the attributes are clear and some aren't, please check the first choice and provide as many attributes you can identify based upon the picture given.

Brand Name (required)

 N/A

Product Name (required)

 N/A



## Dashboard - Nicole (If you're not Nicole, [click here.](#))

### Total Earnings (What's this?)

#### Rewards You Have Earned

	Value
Approved HITs	\$15.33
Bonuses	\$0.00
<b>Total Earnings</b>	<b>\$15.33</b>

### Your HIT Status (What's this?)

Date	Submitted	Approved	Rejected	Pending	Earnings
<a href="#">Today</a>	4	0	0	4	\$0.00
<a href="#">Mar 8, 2010</a>	35	5	2	28	\$0.27
<a href="#">Mar 7, 2010</a>	79	79	0	0	\$11.85
<a href="#">Mar 6, 2010</a>	22	22	0	0	\$3.21

[View more...](#)

# What do I have to do

*...as a hit requester?*

# Mtruk.com - Requester

**mechanical turk**  
Artificial Artificial Intelligence

Your Account   HITs   Qualifications

Already have an account? [Sign in as a Worker](#)

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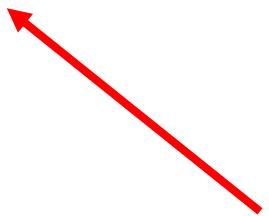
or [learn more about being a Worker](#)

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- Get thousands of HITs completed in minutes
- Pay only when you're satisfied with the results



# amazon mechanical turk

beta

REQUESTER

Home

Create

Manage

Developer

New Project

New Batch with an Existing Project

Start a New Batch with an Existing Project

amazon mechanical turk REQUESTER

Home Create Manage Developer Help

New Project [New Batch with an Existing Project](#) Create HITs individually

### Start a New Batch with an Existing Project

Project Name	Title	Creation Date ▼	
Writing	Write a short summary	May 29, 2014	<b>Publish Batch</b> Edit Copy Delete
Survey	Answer an survey about your opinions	May 29, 2014	<b>Publish Batch</b> Edit Copy Delete
Tagging of an Image 4	Describe an image	May 29, 2014	<b>Publish Batch</b> Edit Copy Delete
Tagging of an Image	Describe an image	March 24, 2014	<b>Publish Batch</b> Edit Copy Delete



## Preview HITs

[Select HIT Template](#) [Upload Input Data](#) [Preview](#) [Confirm and Publish](#)

This is how your HIT will look to Workers. Make sure that any variables in the HIT are correctly replaced by your input data, then click "Next".

### Tagging of an Image

Describe an image

Requester:

Reward: \$0.05 per HIT

HITs available: 3

Duration: 1 Hours

Qualifications Required: Masters has been granted

### HIT Preview

#### Instructions

You must provide 3 tags for the main subject in this image.

- Each tag must be a single word.
- No tag can be longer than 25 characters.
- The tags must describe the image, the contents of the image, or some relevant context.



Tag 1:

Tag 2:

Tag 3:

Submit

Showing HIT 1 of 3

[Next HIT](#)

[Cancel](#)

[Next](#)



## Confirm and Publish Batch

① Select HIT Template ② Upload Input Data ③ Preview ④ Confirm and Publish

Please review the information about the HIT batch, then click "Publish HITs".

### Tagging of an Image

Batch Summary	
Batch Name:	Tagging of an Image
Description:	Please view and write a tag for an image
Batch Properties	
Title:	Describe an image
Description:	Please view and write a tag for an image
Batch expires in:	7 Days
Results are auto-approved and workers are paid after:	8 Hours
Master Qualification:	Masters
HITs	
Number of HITs in this batch:	3
Number of assignments per HIT:	x 1
Total number of assignments in this batch:	3
Cost	
Reward per Assignment:	\$0.050
	x 3 (total number of assignments in this batch)
Estimated Total Reward:	\$0.150
Estimated Fees to Mechanical Turk:	+ \$0.045 (fees paid to Mechanical Turk) (fee details)
Estimated Total Cost:	<b>\$0.195</b> (this is the amount that will be deducted from your Available Balance when you click "Publish HITs")
Your Available Balance:	\$10,000.000 (before clicking "Publish HITs")
Your Projected Balance:	\$9,999.805 (after clicking "Publish HITs")

[Back](#) [Publish HITs](#)

Click on the name of the batch to see more details

▼ Batches in progress (2)

['Image Tagging' @ 03 Oct 12:49](#)

[Results](#)

[Cancel this batch](#)

**Created:** October 03, 2010

**Assignments Completed:** 0 / 1,000

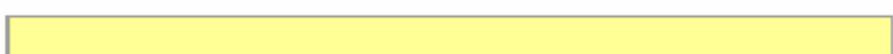
**Time Elapsed:** about 5 hours

**Estimated Completion Time:** Not yet available

**Average Time per Assignment:** Not yet available

**Effective Hourly Rate:** Not Yet Available

**Batch Progress:**



['Find a store' @ 27 Sep 07:54](#)

[Results](#)

[Cancel this batch](#)

**Created:** September 27, 2010

**Assignments Completed:** 2 / 7

**Time Elapsed:** 6 days

**Estimated Completion Time:** Not yet available

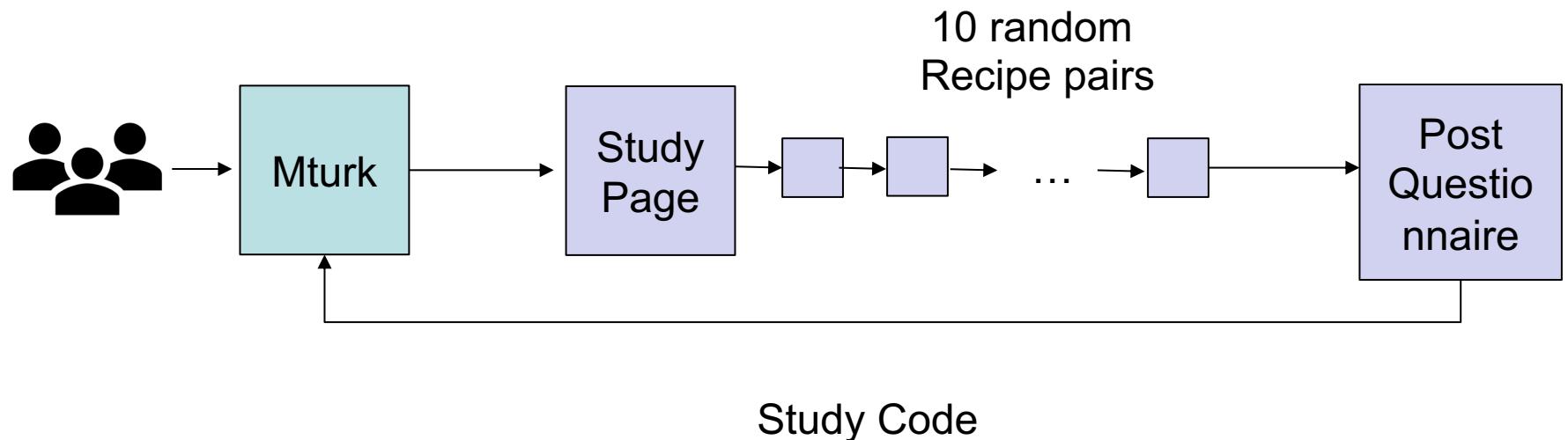
**Average Time per Assignment:** 4 Seconds

**Effective Hourly Rate:** \$18.00

**Batch Progress:**



# User Study Design: Ground truth study



# [Task 1 / 10]

To what extent are the two recipes shown below similar?



## Recipe Study

(Scroll to the end of page to get to the next question)

### Linguine Pasta with Shrimp and Tomatoes



#### Ingredients

2 tablespoons olive oil  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
4 cups diced tomatoes  
1 cup dry white wine  
2 tablespoons butter  
salt and black pepper to taste  
1 (16 ounce) package linguine pasta  
1 pound peeled and deveined medium shrimp  
1 teaspoon Cajun seasoning  
2 tablespoons olive oil

#### Directions

Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Stir in the garlic, cook 2 minutes. Add the tomatoes, and wine. Bring to a simmer and cook 30 minutes, stirring frequently. Once the tomatoes have simmered into a sauce, stir in the butter and season with salt and pepper. Fill a large pot with lightly-salted water, bring to a rolling boil, stir in the linguine and return to a boil. Cook the pasta uncovered, stirring occasionally, until the pasta has cooked through but is still firm to the bite,

### Hudson's Baked Tilapia with Dill Sauce



#### Ingredients

4 (4 ounce) fillets tilapia  
salt and pepper to taste  
1 tablespoon Cajun seasoning, or to taste  
1 lemon, thinly sliced  
1/4 cup mayonnaise  
1/2 cup sour cream  
1/8 teaspoon garlic powder  
1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice  
2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill

#### Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a 9x13 inch baking dish. Season the tilapia fillets with salt, pepper and Cajun seasoning on both sides. Arrange the seasoned fillets in a single layer in the baking dish. Place a layer of lemon slices over the fish fillets. I usually use about 2 slices on each piece so that it covers most of the surface of the fish. Bake uncovered for 15 to 20 minutes in the preheated oven, or until fish flakes easily with a fork.



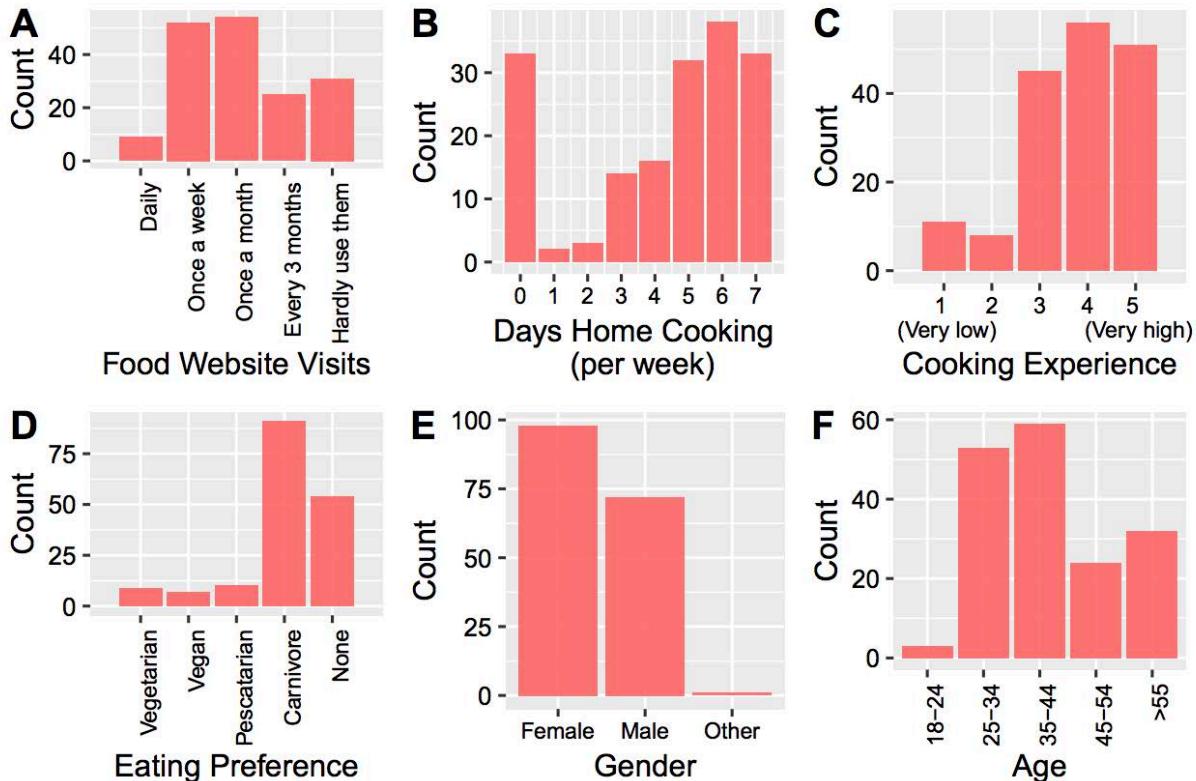
# Results

Recipe Study: 400 turker

with 98% hit accept rate and min. 500 hits  
in the past

In total: 4,000 user estimates

# Recipe Results: User Characteristics



~45% of all users passed the attention check

**Figure 2: Crowdworker characteristics of the similarity assessment study.**

**RQ1.** Which types of features and which specific features determine the similarity between items as perceived by users?

# Recipe Results: Feature Correlations

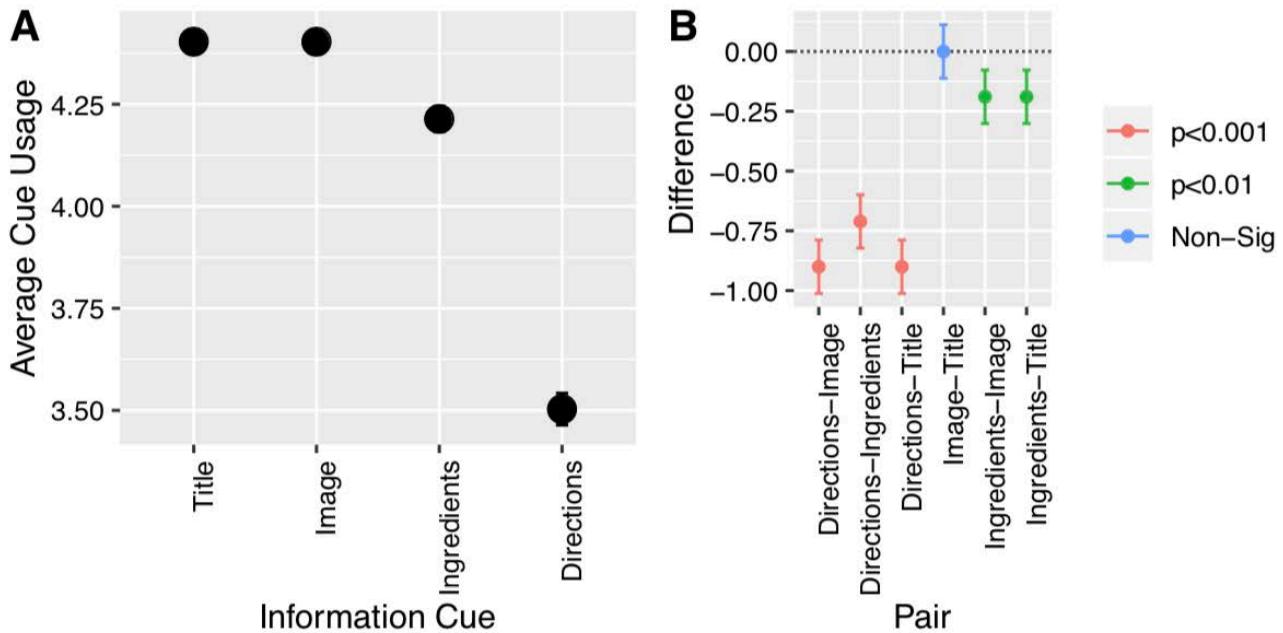
**Table 2: Similarity metric correlation (Spearman) with user similarity estimates.**  $\rho_{\text{pass}}$  indicate correlations with users who passed the attention check, while  $\rho_{\text{all}}$  denotes all users.

Note: \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .

Metric	$\rho_{\text{pass}}$	$\rho_{\text{all}}$
Title:LV	0.48***	0.38***
Title:JW	0.46***	0.35***
Title:LCS	0.50***	0.40***
Title:BI	0.48***	0.38***
Title:LDA	0.22***	0.19***
Image:BR	0.18**	0.14*
Image:SH	0.16*	0.11*
Image:CO	0.29***	0.20***
Image:COL	0.09*	0.07*
Image:EN	0.34***	0.28***
Image:EMB	0.44***	0.34***
Ing:COS	0.54***	0.44***
Ing:JACC	0.51***	0.41***
Ing:TFIDF	<b>0.56***</b>	<b>0.44***</b>
Ing:LDA	0.45***	0.36***
Dir:TFIDF	0.50***	0.40***
Dir:LDA	0.54***	0.43***

Higher is better  
1 = 100%

# Recipe Results: Cue Usage



**Figure 3: (A) Information cue usage (means and std. errors) and (B) Pairwise comparison. Scale: 1 (not at all) – 5 (totally agree).**

**RQ2.** Which specific combination of features is suited to predicting user-perceived similarity levels?

# Recipe Results: Machine Learning performance when features are combined

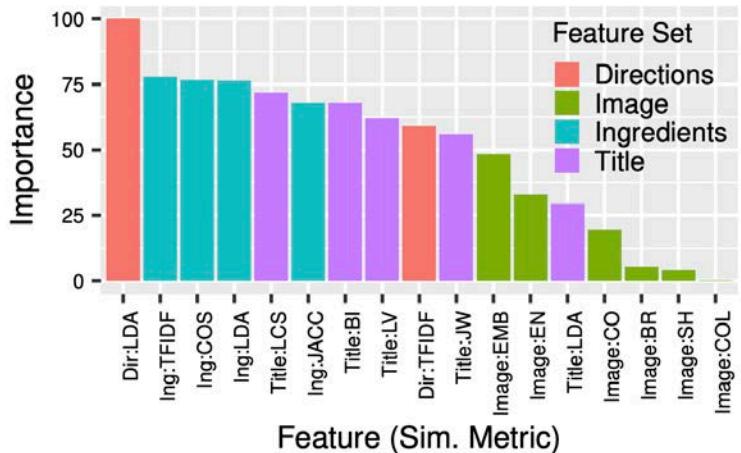


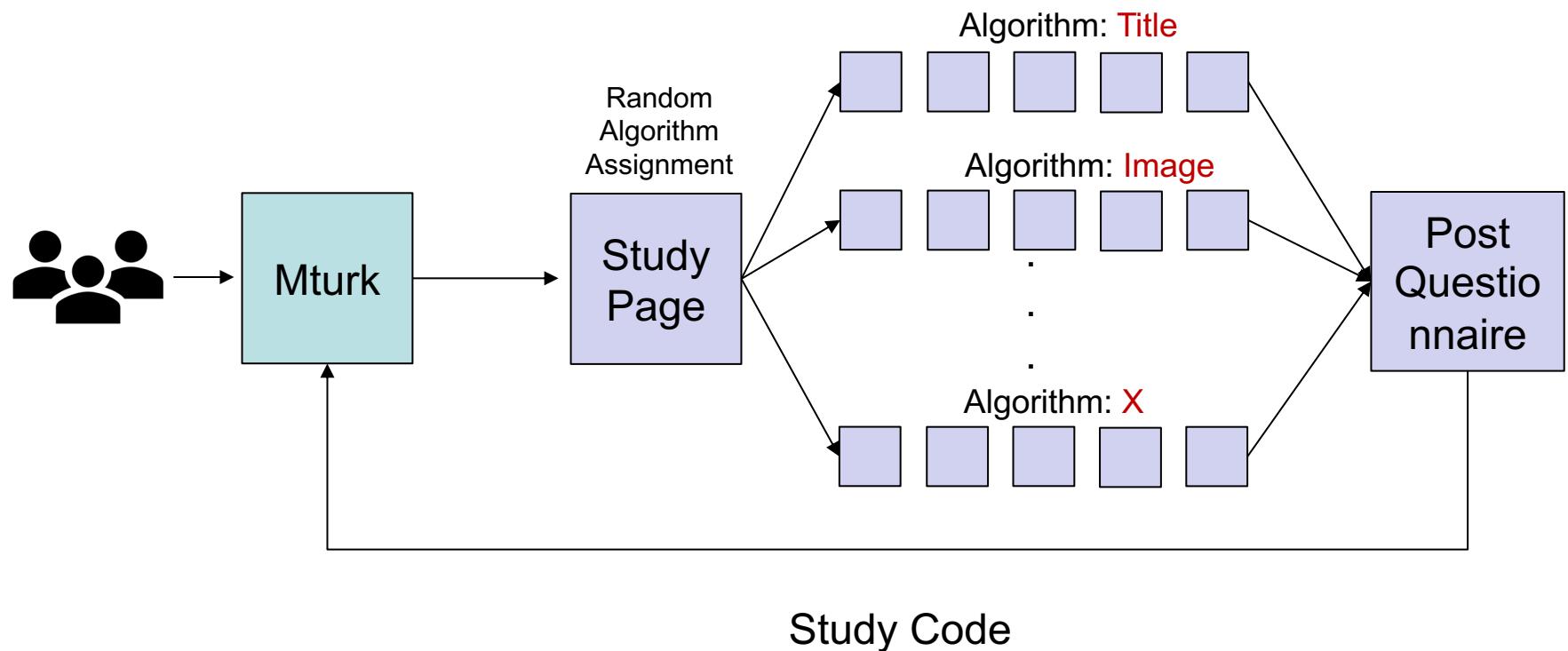
Figure 4: Feature importance for the best performing ridge regression model.

Table 6: Results when considering only one information cue at the time.

Method	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup>	MAE	$\rho$
(Instances = 1,539)				
Ridge Regression per Information Cue				
Title	1.0245	0.3079	0.8348	0.5278
Image	1.0680	0.2478	0.8706	0.4969
Ingredients	0.9449	0.4096	0.7493	0.6080
Directions	<b>0.9390</b>	<b>0.4190</b>	<b>0.7480</b>	<b>0.5998</b>
All (Ridge)	<b>0.8654</b>	<b>0.5063</b>	<b>0.6651</b>	<b>0.6625</b>

# User Study Design: Validation Study

5 random recipes with  
5 recommended lists



# Recipe Study

## [Task 1 / 5]

Have a look at the reference recipe and the recommended similar recipe list!

(Scroll down to answer the survey questions)



### Reference Recipe

#### Juiciest Hamburgers Ever



#### Ingredients

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1 egg, beaten
- 3/4 cup dry bread crumbs
- 3 tablespoons evaporated milk
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, minced

#### Directions

Preheat grill for high heat.  
In a large bowl, mix the ground beef, egg, bread crumbs, evaporated milk, Worcestershire sauce, cayenne pepper, and garlic using your hands.  
Form the mixture into 8 hamburger patties.  
Lightly oil the grill grate. Grill patties 5 minutes per side, or until well done.

### Recommended Similar Recipes

#### Hamburgers by Eddie

To what extent is this recipe similar to the reference recipe?



How likely is it that you will try this recipe?



#### Ingredients

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 egg
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon steak sauce (e.g. A-1), or to taste

#### Directions

Preheat an outdoor grill for high heat.

In a medium bowl, mix together the ground beef, egg, and garlic. Mix in steak sauce until mixture is sticky.

#### Best Hamburger Ever

To what extent is this recipe similar to the reference recipe?



How likely is it that you will try this recipe?

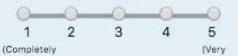


#### Ingredients

- 1 1/2 pounds lean ground beef
- 1/2 onion, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup shredded Colby Jack or Cheddar cheese
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 egg
- 1 (1 ounce) envelope dry onion soup mix
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley
- 1/4 cup ketchup

#### Garlic and Onion Burgers

To what extent is this recipe similar to the reference recipe?



How likely is it that you will try this recipe?



#### Ingredients

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup minced onion
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon Italian-style seasoning

#### Directions

In a large bowl, mix together the beef, Worcestershire sauce, garlic, onion, salt, pepper and Italian

#### Juicy Lucy Burgers

To what extent is this recipe similar to the reference recipe?



How likely is it that you will try this recipe?



#### Ingredients

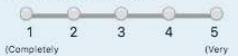
- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 3/4 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 4 slices American cheese (such as Kraft®)
- 4 hamburger buns, split

#### Directions

Combine ground beef, Worcestershire sauce, garlic salt, and pepper in a large bowl, mix well.

#### Biggest Bestest Burger

To what extent is this recipe similar to the reference recipe?



How likely is it that you will try this recipe?



#### Ingredients

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/4 cup Italian seasoned bread crumbs
- 1 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/3 cup teriyaki sauce
- 6 slices American cheese
- 6 onion rolls

# Results

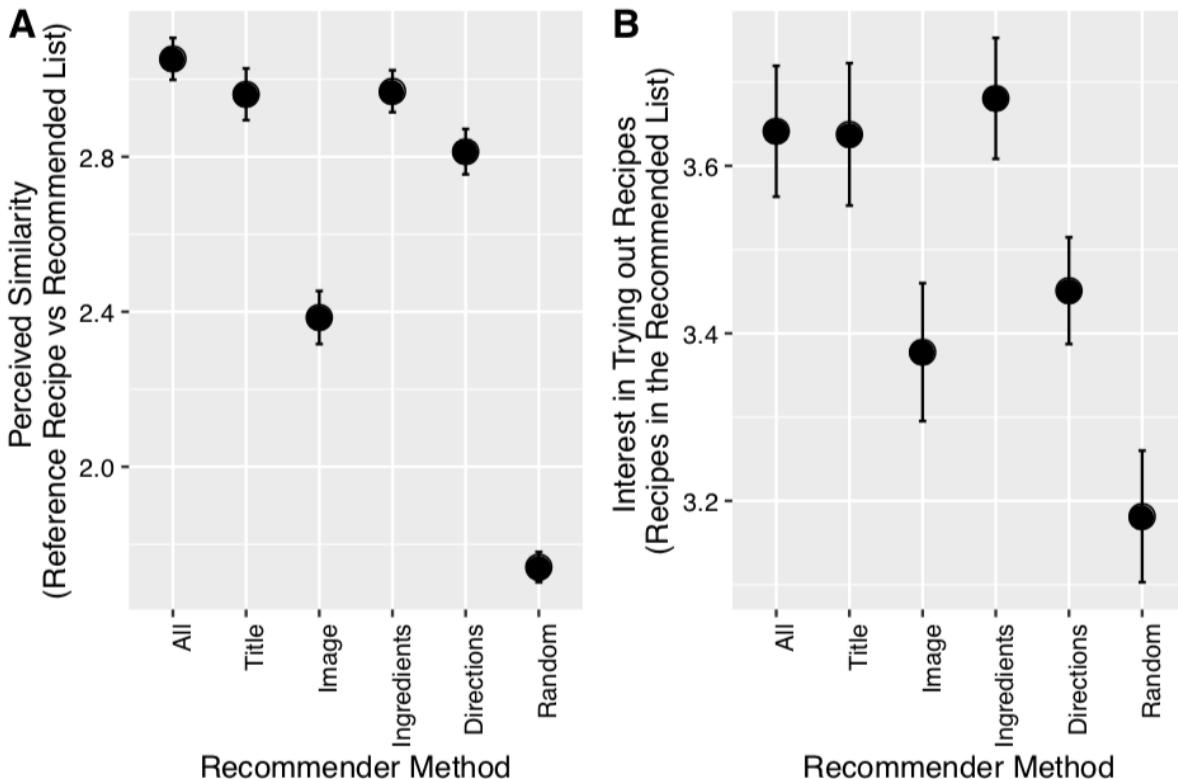
Recipe Study: 800 users

with 98% hit accept rate and min. 500 hits  
in the past

In total: 24,000 user estimates

**RQ3.** Do models with higher prediction accuracy lead to a higher perceived item similarity?

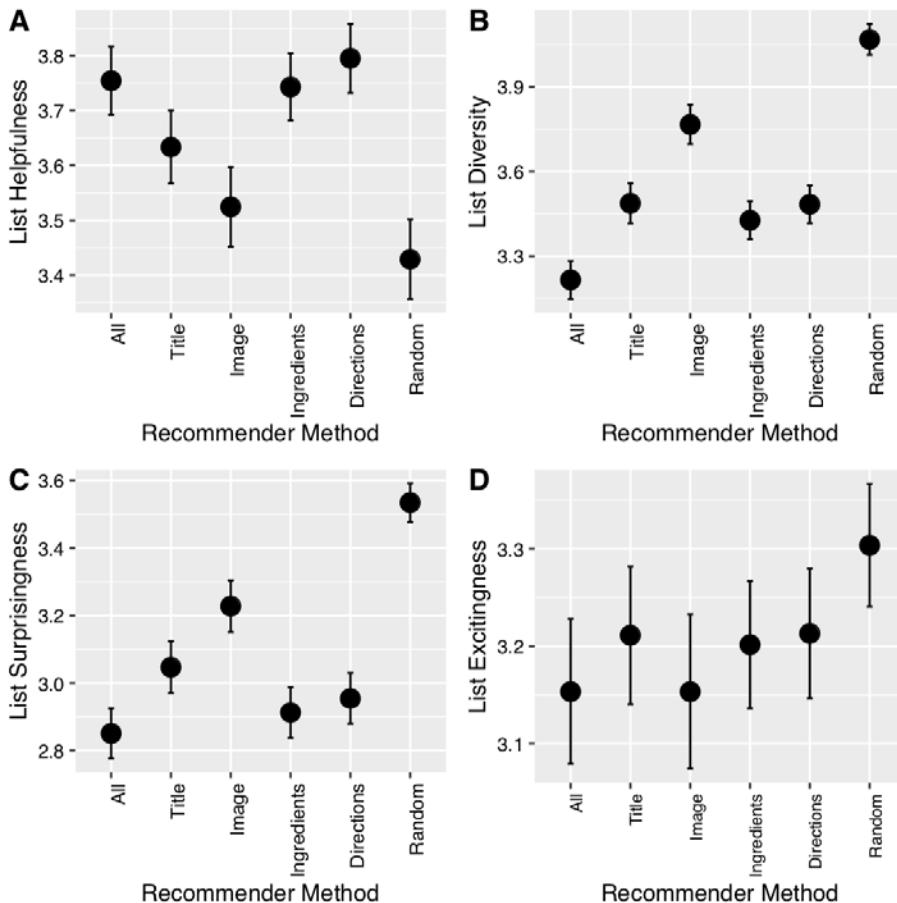
# Recipe Results: Perceived Sim & Interest in Trying Recommendations



**Figure 7: (A) Perceived similarity (reference recipe vs recommended list) and (B) Interest in trying out a recommendation (means and std. errors). Scale: 1 (not at all) – 5 (very similar/will try).**

**RQ4.** How do users assess the usefulness of recommendations that are based on different similarity functions?

# Recipe Results: Helpfulness, Diversity, Surprise, Excitingness



**Figure 8: (A) Helpfulness, (B) Diversity, (C) Surprisingness and (D) Excitingness of the recommended lists (means and std. errors). Scale: 1 (not at all) – 5 (totally agree).**

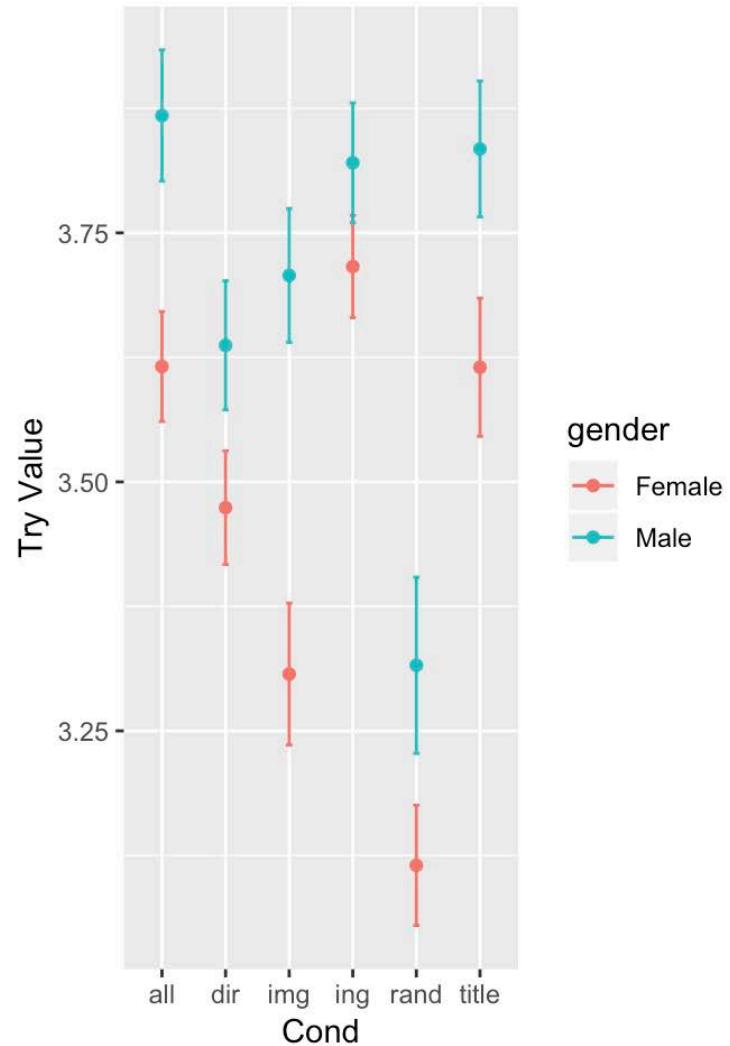
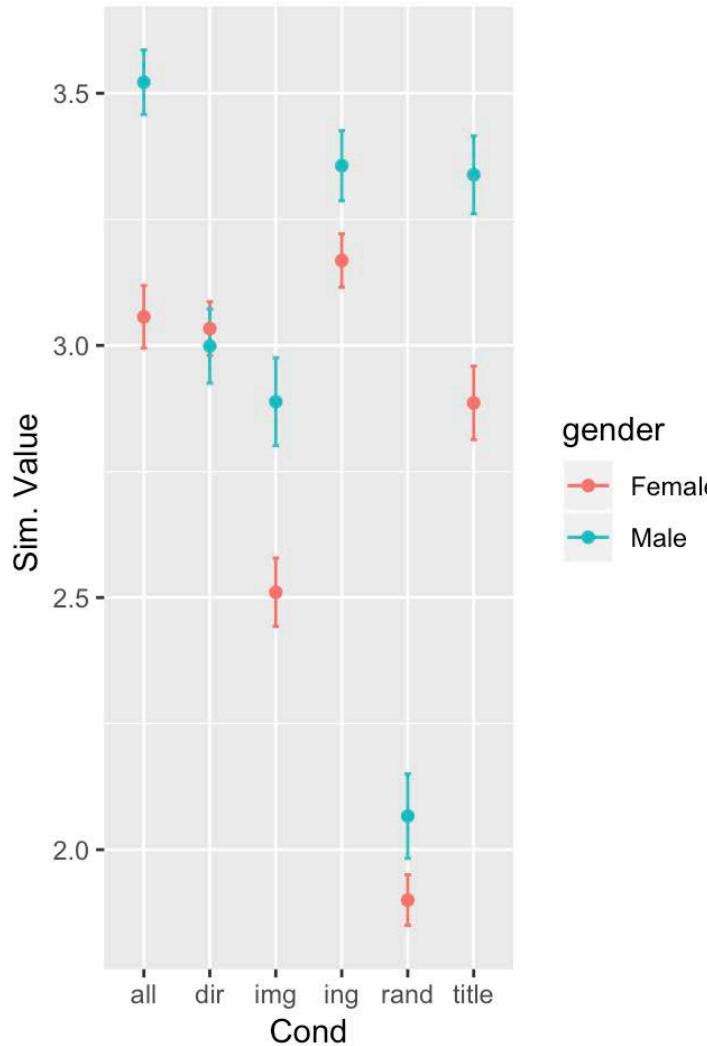
# Conclusions

- Our work demonstrates the *feasibility of learning similarity functions from human judgements*.
- It also turned out that *considering these human judgements is a necessity*, because *experts can err* and because self assessments by users regarding the relative importance of certain factors might be misleading.
- Our experiments and studies also showed that it is important to consider several aspects in parallel.

# What are we currently working on?

## (User Characteristics)

# User Characteristics



# Part 9:

# Collaborative Filtering vs Content-based

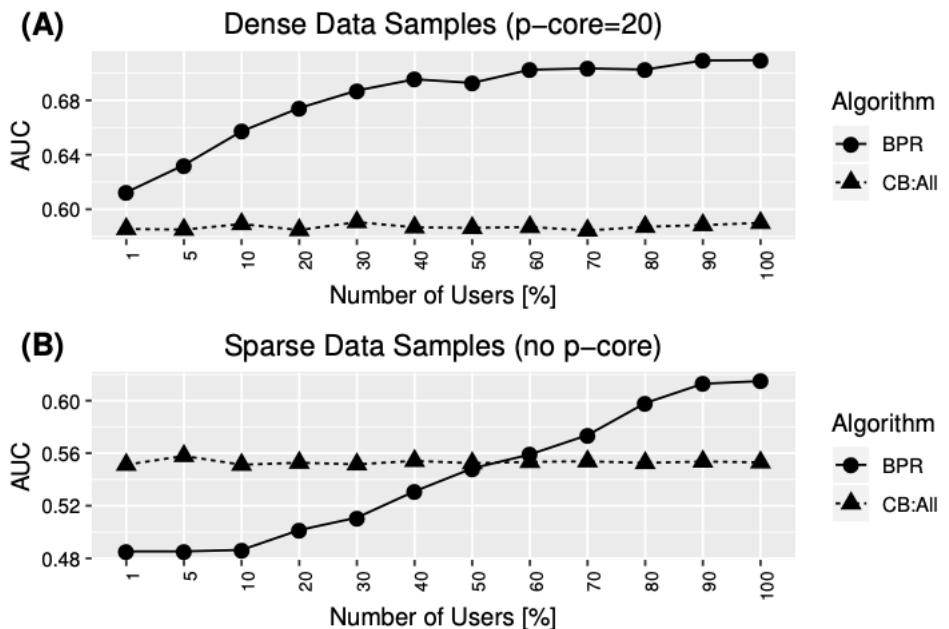
# And what about CB vs CF in the Food Domain?

Trattner, C. and Elsweiler, D. **An Evaluation of Recommendation Algorithms for Online Recipe Portals.** In Proceedings of the HealthRecSys workshop co-located with ACM RecSys, 2019.

**Table 2: Results of the recommender experiment – collaborative (CF) vs content-based (CB) – in the dense data sample with all users. Best features in each set (CF and CB) are bolded. Top-5 ( $\uparrow$ ) and Bottom-5 ( $\downarrow$ ) single content features are also marked.**

Method	Algorithm	AUC
CF	BPR	<b>.7094</b>
	WRMF	.6881
	UserKNN	.6962
	ItemKNN	.6909
	MostPopular	.6864
	LDA	.6863
CB	Title:Levenstein-Distance	.5468 ( $\uparrow$ )
	Title:Bigram-Distance	.5500 ( $\uparrow$ )
	Title:LCS-Distance	.5424
	Title:LDA-Text-Cosine	.5353
	Title:Jaro-Winkler-Distance	.5324
	Title>All	.5523
	Image:Cosine-Embeddings	.5322
	Image:Colorfulness-Distance	.5072 ( $\downarrow$ )
	Image:Contrast-Distance	.5175
	Image:Sharpness-Distance	.5109
CB	Image:Entropy-Distance	.5080 ( $\downarrow$ )
	Image:Brightness-Distance	.4991 ( $\downarrow$ )
	Image>All	.5425
	Ingredients:Cosine-Text	.5547
	Ingredients:Cosine-LDA-Text	.5653 ( $\uparrow$ )
	Ingredients:Jaccard	.5502
	Ingredients:Cosine	.5575
Directions	Ingredients>All	.5718
	Directions:Cosine-LDA-Text	.5606 ( $\uparrow$ )
	Directions:Cosine-Text	.5210
	Directions>All	.5731
Ratings	Ratings:Number-Distance	.4789 ( $\downarrow$ )
	Ratings:Average-Distance	.4832 ( $\downarrow$ )
	Ratings>All	.5249
Health	Health:FSA	.5775 ( $\uparrow$ )
	CB>All	<b>.5883</b>
Random		.4989

# CF vs CB in Recipe RecSys



**Figure 1: (A) shows the results in the dense data samples (= p-core filtered) where each user has at least 20 item interactions and each item is at least 20-times interacted with, (B) shows the results in the sparse data samples (=no p-core).**

# Part 10: The Future & Conclusions

# What is the Future?

## Sustainable Food Recommender Systems

**What online data say about eating habits.** Trattner, C. and Elsweiler, D. NATURE Sustainability, 2019

# Conclusions

- In order to get started with Food RecSys:

**Food Recommender Systems: Important Contributions, Challenges and Future Research Directions.** Trattner, C. and Elsweiler, D. Collaborative Recommendations: Algorithms, Practical Challenges and Applications, World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd., 2018.

- If you need data or code - email me 😊
- Rest can be found on my website:  
<http://christophtrattner.com>

# Thank you!



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**GRACIAS** **THANK**  
**ARIGATO** **YOU**  
**SHUKURIA** **BOLZİN** **MERCI**  
**JUSPAXAR**

DANKSCHEEN

SPASSIBO NUHUN CHALTU YAQHANYELAY YUSPAGARATAM  
SNACHALHYA TASHAKKUR ATU HUI  
MERASTAWHY MAITEKA WABEEJA  
SANCO DHANYABAAD EKHMET  
MAAKE ATTO UNALCHEESH  
KOMAPSUMNIDA ANNA SPASIBO  
GAEJTHO DENKAUJA  
LAH MEERI NENACHALHYA  
FAKAAUE PALDIES  
BAIMA GOZAIMASHITA SIKOMO  
MEDAWAGSE EFCHARISTO MAKETBI  
TAVTAPUCHI AGUYJE MINMONCHAR

TINGKI BIYAN SHUKRIA

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