

个性化推荐的未来

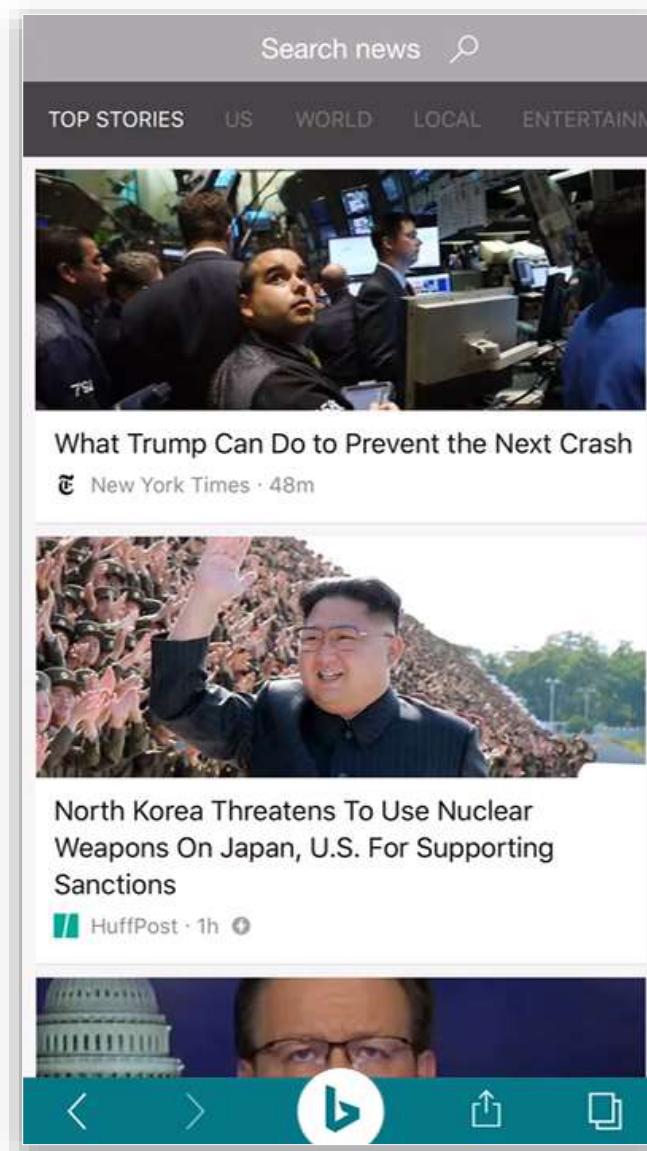
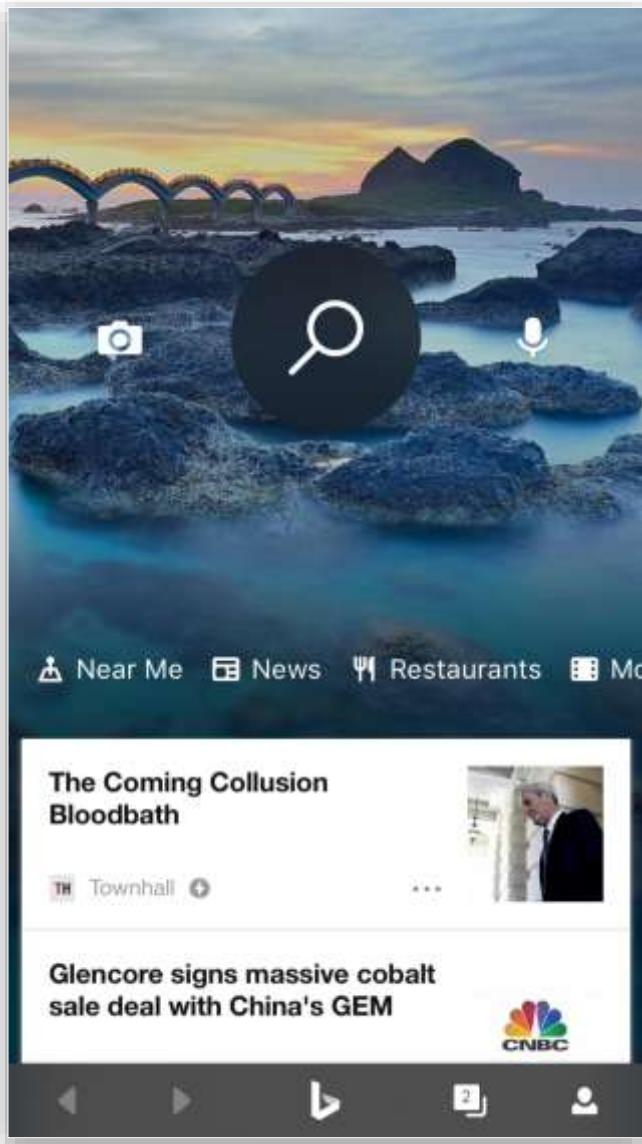
基于知识的推荐与可解释推荐

谢幸，王希廷
微软亚洲研究院

User Behavioral Data



Personalized News Feed



Online Advertising

The screenshot shows a LinkedIn feed interface. At the top, there are navigation icons: Home, My Network, Jobs, Messaging, and Notes. Below this, a section titled "Suggested for you" contains a post from "Tableau Software". The post is labeled "Promoted" and features a thumbnail image with the text "TOP TEN CLOUD TRENDS FOR 2017". A red circle highlights this post. Below the thumbnail, the text reads: "From enterprise SaaS apps to hybrid cloud approaches and IoT—changes are coming to cloud-based business intelligence in 2017. Read the report to learn more." There is a "see more" link and a "Follow" button. At the bottom of the post, there are social sharing options: Like, Comment, Share, and a profile picture for "Deepa S".

The screenshot shows an Outlook Mail inbox. The left sidebar lists folders: Junk Email, Drafts, Sent Items, Deleted Items (with 2 items), Archive, ImpDetails, and OfferDetails. The main pane shows a list of emails. An email from "NeweggBusiness" is highlighted with a red circle. The subject line is "Acer Notebook Aspire R 11 R3-131T-C8X9 Intel Celeron N3050 (1.60 GHz) ...". The word "Ad" is visible next to the subject line. Other emails in the list include "Redbox" (with a "BEST AT..." link) and "Microsoft Rewards".

The screenshot shows a news website layout. At the top, there is a navigation bar with categories: REDMOND / 60°F, NEWS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, MONEY, LIFESTYLE, HEALTH & FITNESS, FOOD & DRINK, TRAVEL, and AUTOS. Below the navigation, there is a large sponsored advertisement. The ad features several credit cards (VISA, MasterCard, American Express) and cash bills, with the text "A Jaw-Dropping \$200 Intro Bonus Just For Using This Card". To the right of the ad, there is a news article thumbnail with the headline "Ghost Ship: Authorities arrest two in deadly fire that killed 36". Further down, there is another news snippet: "98-year-old donates \$2M in Walgreens stock bought 70 years ago".

Conversational Recommendation

Every time I listen to this song, I will think of my first love.



Can not sleep, listening to the song, recalling my story, and missing your hand.



What songs should I listen to when I can't sleep?



Data Privacy

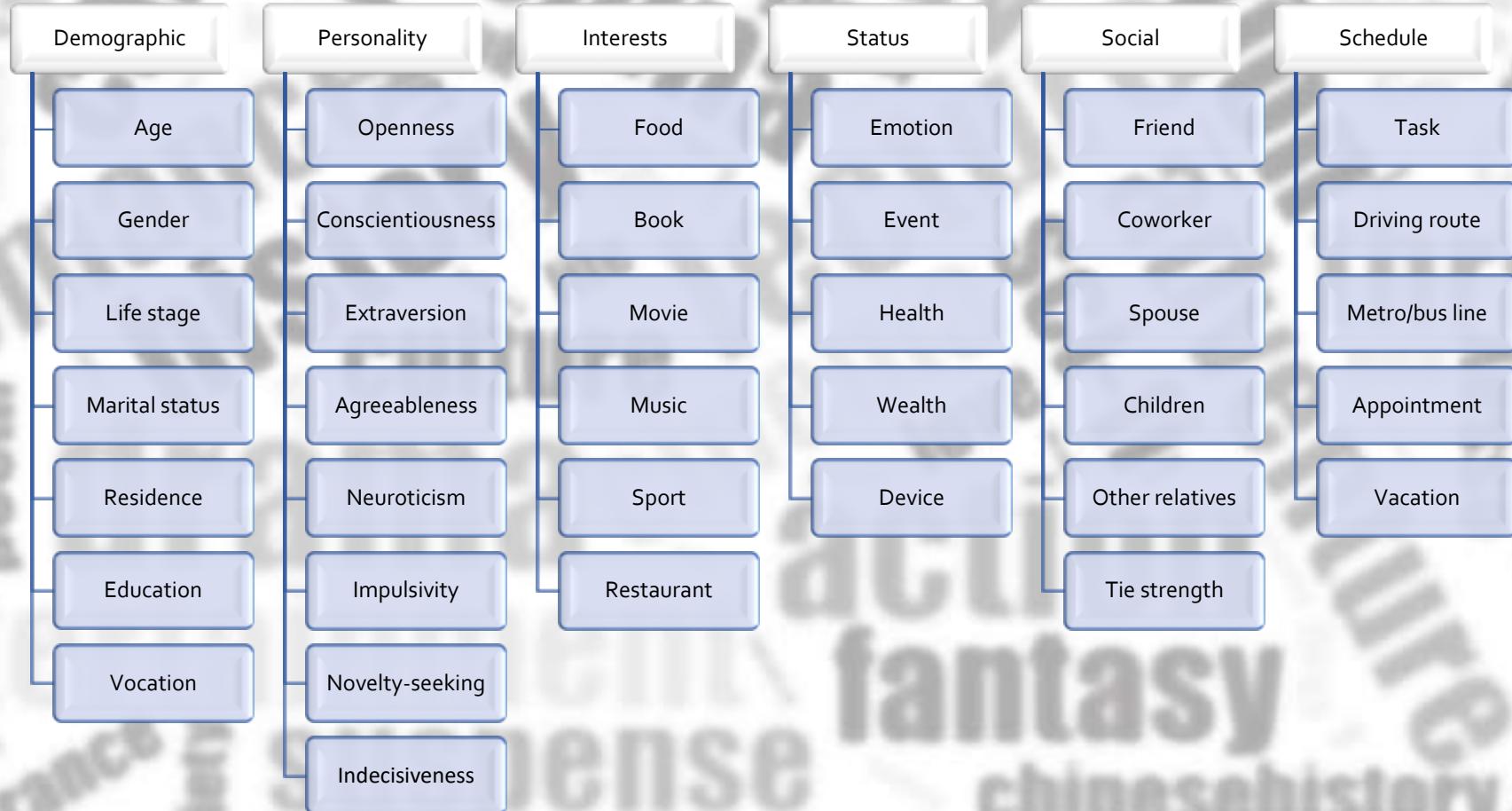


User Modeling

User Big Data → User Representation

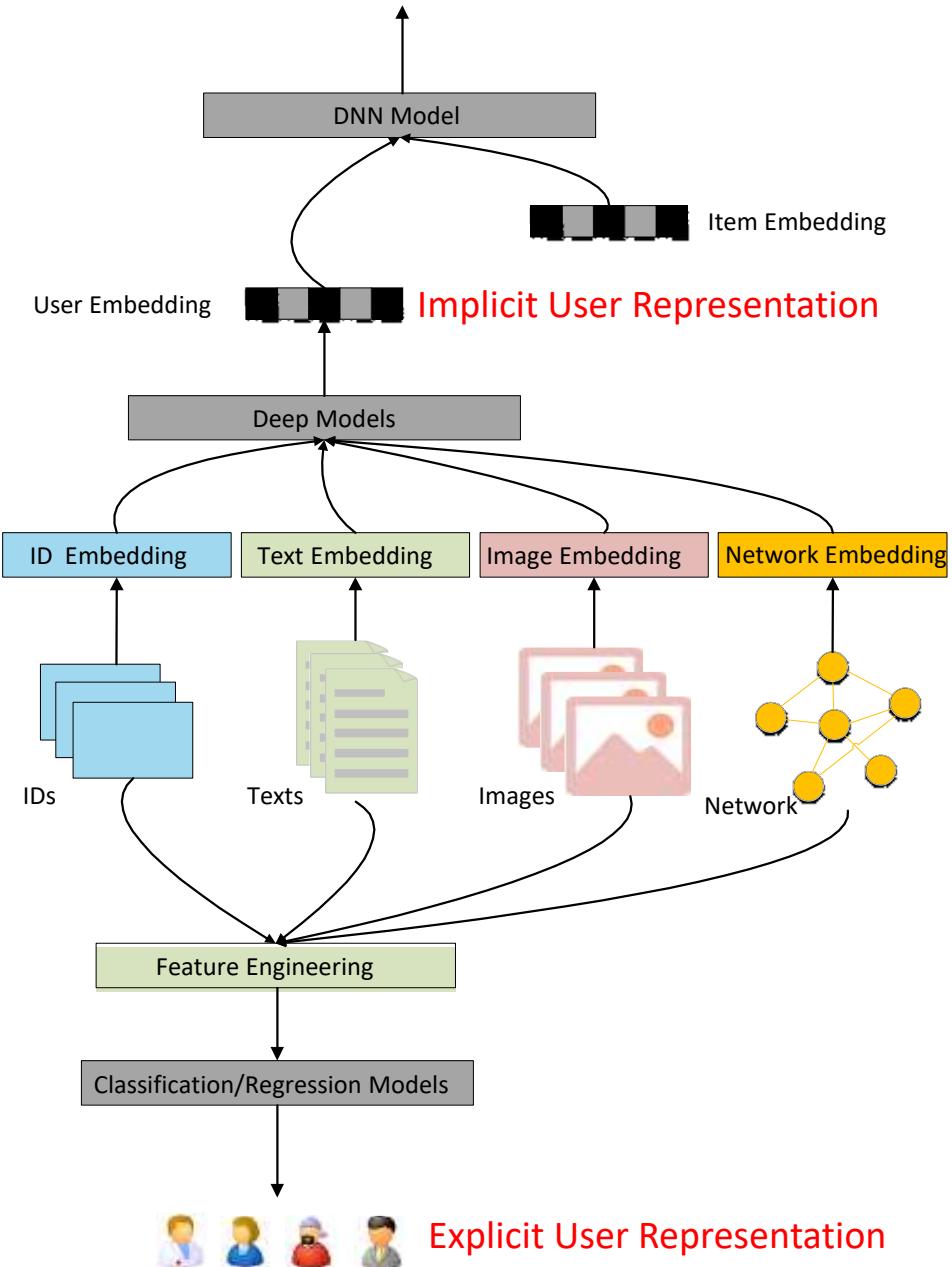


Explicit User Representation

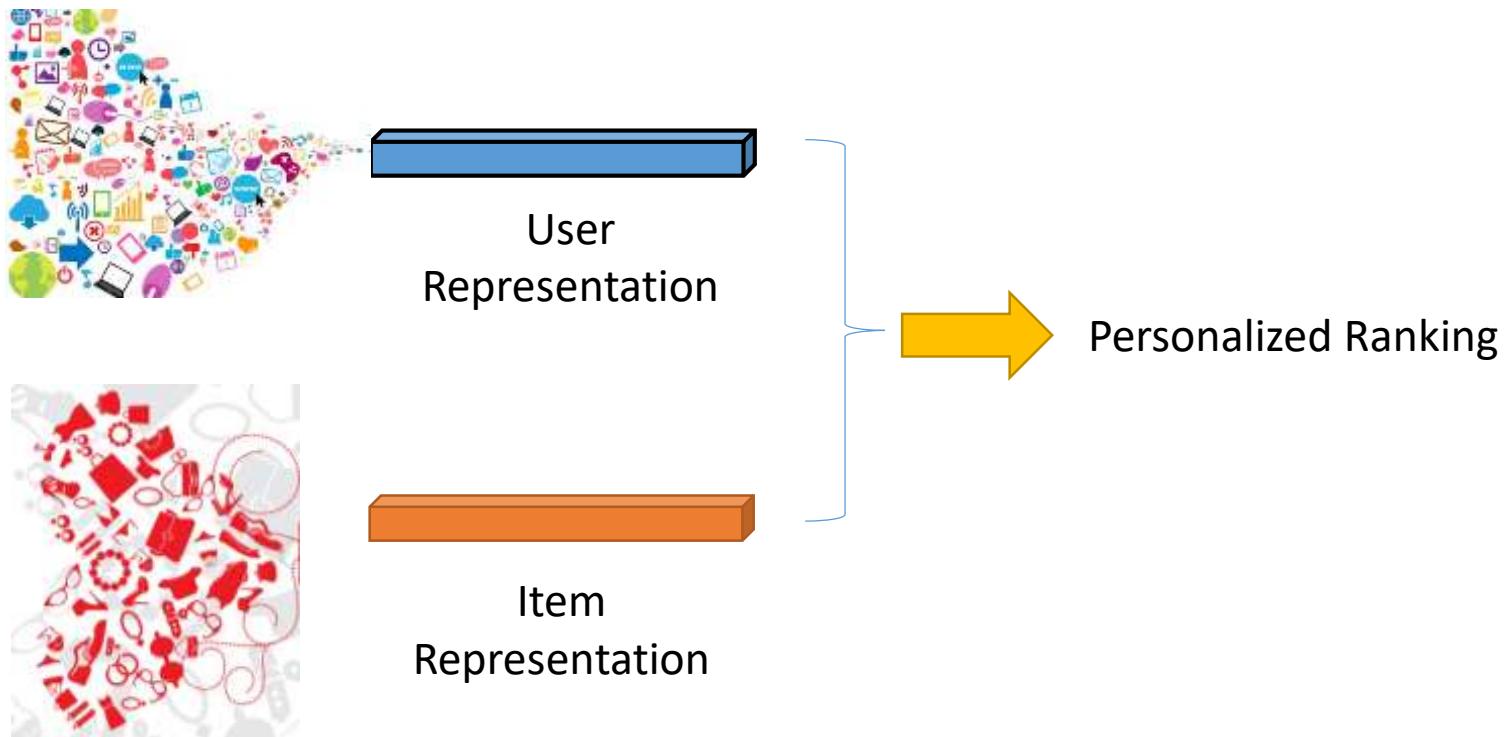


Explicit vs Implicit

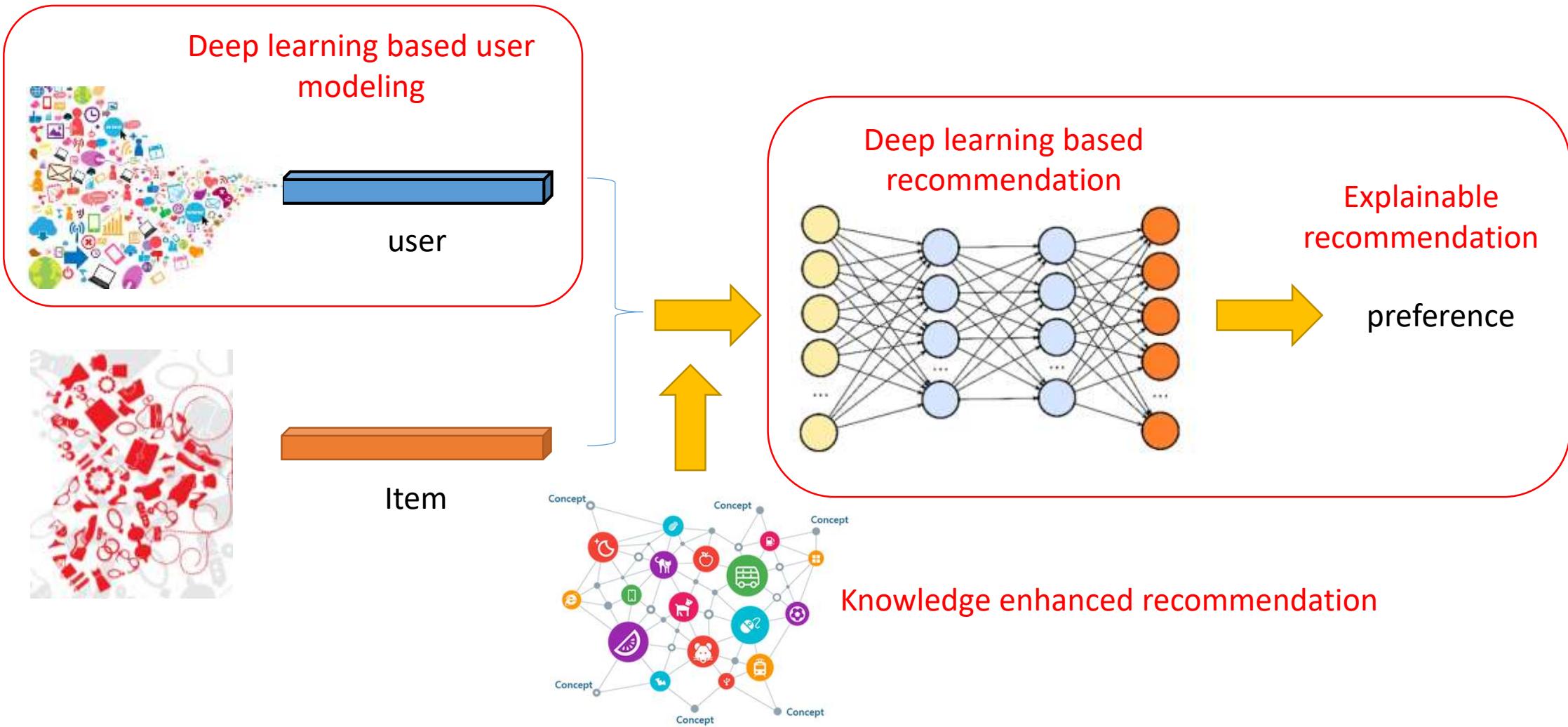
| Representation | Pros | Cons |
|----------------|--|---|
| Explicit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easy to understand; Can be directly bidden by advertisers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hard to obtain training data; Difficult to satisfy complex and global needs; |
| Implicit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unified and heterogenous user representation; End-to-end learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult to explain; Need to fine-tune in each task |



Personalized Service



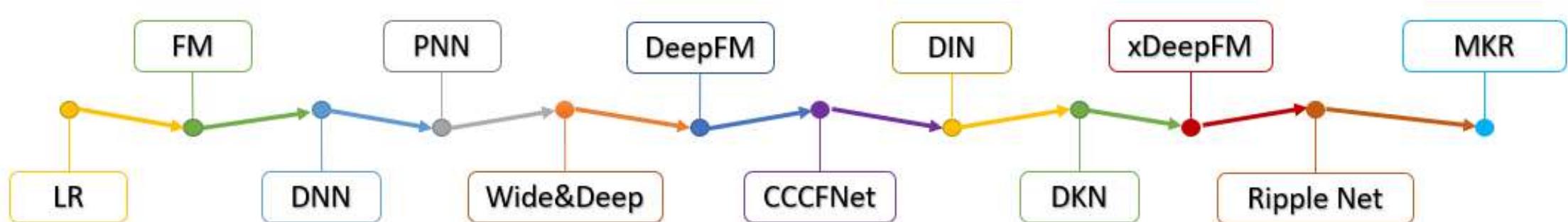
Our Research





DeepRec

- A collection of state-of-the-art deep learning based user representation and recommendation models. The systems are designed to be simple to use and easy to extend, while maintaining efficiency.



Recent Publication

- Xiting Wang, Yiru Chen, Jie Yang, etc. A Reinforcement Learning Framework for Explainable Recommendation, ICDM 2018
- Chanyoung Park, Donghyun Kim, Xing Xie, Hwanjo Yu, Collaborative Translational Metric Learning, ICDM 2018
- Zhigang Yuan, Fangzhao Wu, Junxin Liu, etc. Neural Sentence-level Sentiment Classification with Heterogeneous Supervision, ICDM 2018
- Hongwei Wang, etc. Ripple Network: Propagating User Preferences on the Knowledge Graph for Recommender Systems, CIKM 2018
- Jianxun Lian, Xiaohuan Zhou, etc., xDeepFM: Combining Explicit and Implicit Feature Interactions for Recommender Systems, KDD 2018
- Zheng Liu, Xing Xie, Lei Chen, Context-aware Academic Collaborator Recommendation, KDD 2018
- Defu Lian, Kai Zheng, Vincent W. Zheng, etc. High-order Proximity Preserving Information Network Hashing, KDD 2018
- Jianxun Lian, etc. Towards Better Representation Learning for Personalized News Recommendation: a Multi-Channel Deep Fusion Approach, IJCAI 2018
- Haochao Ying, Fuzhen Zhuang, Fuzheng Zhang, etc. Sequential Recommender System based on Hierarchical Attention Networks, IJCAI 2018
- Yingzi Wang, Anastasios Noulas, Xiao Zhou, etc. Predicting the Spatio-Temporal Evolution of Chronic Diseases in Population with Human Mobility Data, IJCAI 2018
- Guanjie Zheng, Fuzheng Zhang, Zihan Zheng, etc. DRN: A Deep Reinforcement Learning Framework for News Recommendation, WWW 2018
- Hongwei Wang, Fuzheng Zhang, Xing Xie, Minyi Guo, DKN: Deep Knowledge-Aware Network for News Recommendation, WWW 2018
- Youngnam Lee, etc. How to Impute Missing Ratings? Claims, Solution, and Its Application to Collaborative Filtering, WWW 2018
- Hongwei Wang, etc. SHINE: Signed Heterogeneous Information Network Embedding for Sentiment Link Prediction, WSDM 2018



封面插图来自澳门特别行政区政府新闻局出版的《澳门新报》（2010年1月期）。

教材热线

010-88379604
010-88379429 88361066
010-68326294 88379649 68995258

零售网

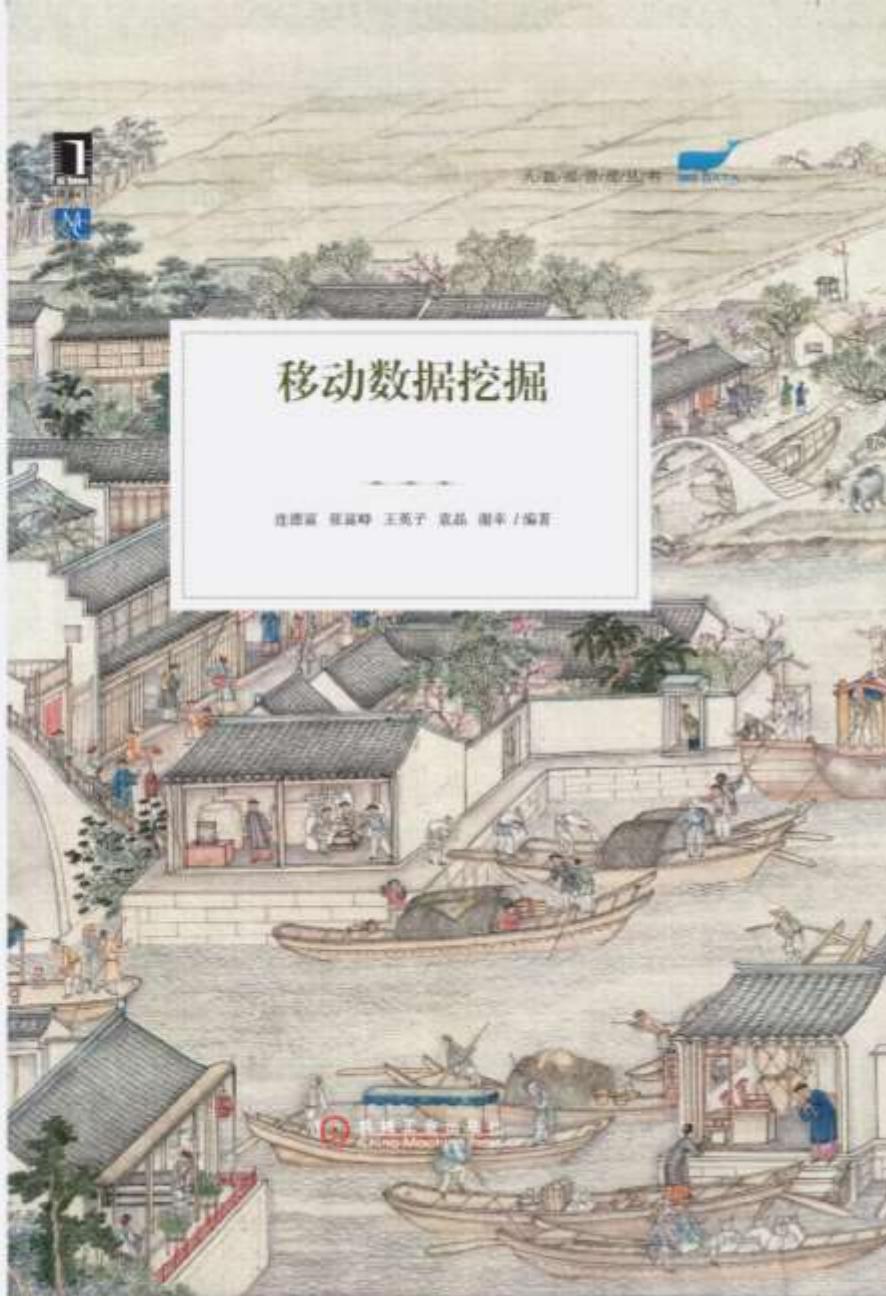
www.tatabook.com
网上书店 www.china-pub.com
数字图书 www.tumedia.com.cn



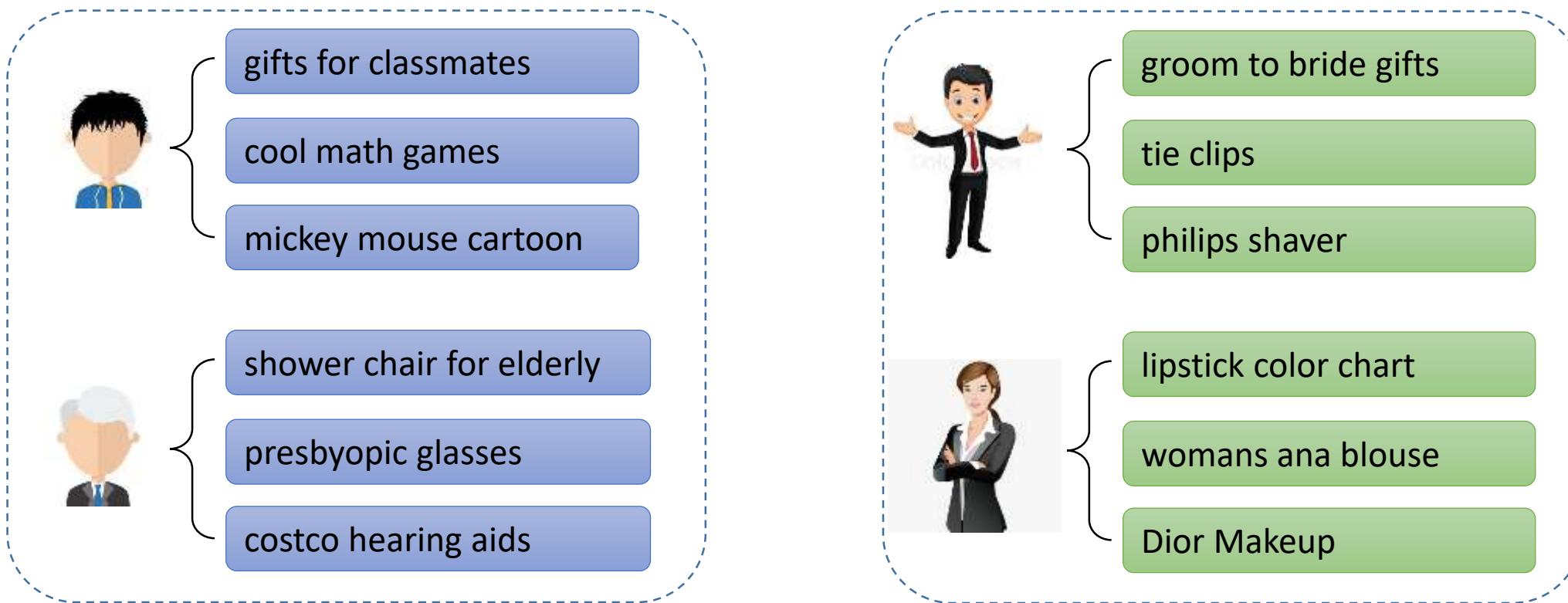
机械工业出版社

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版

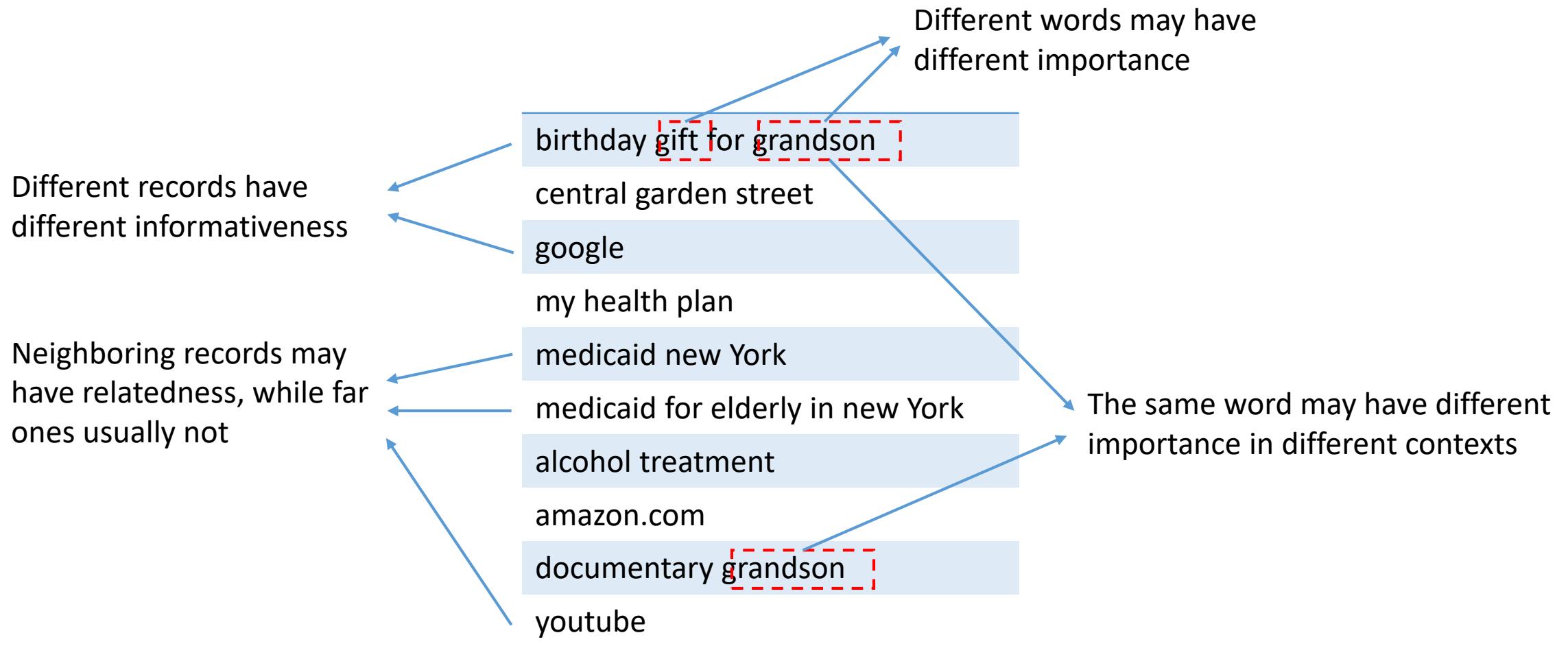
移动数据挖掘



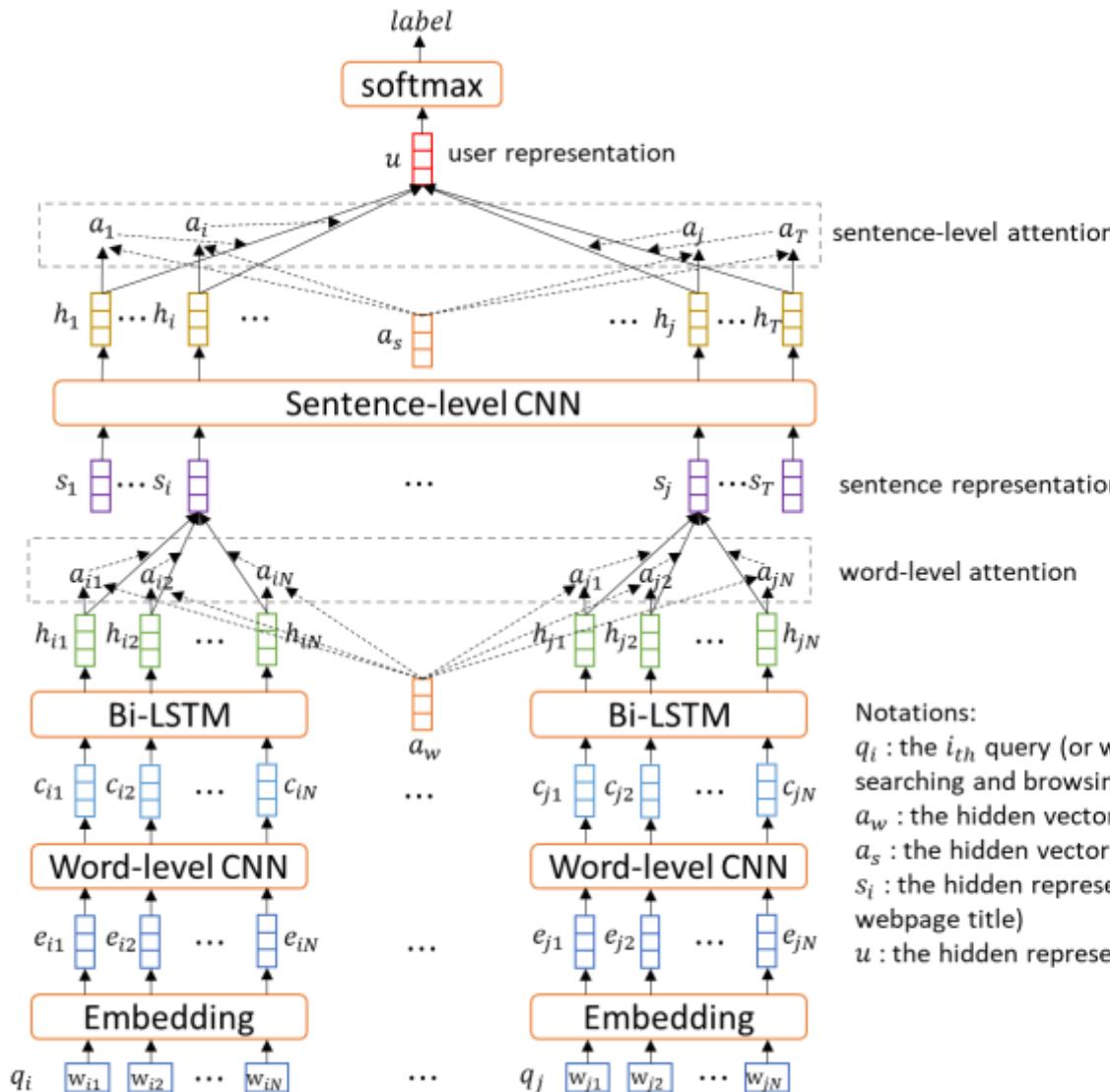
Query Log based User Modeling



Query Log based User Modeling

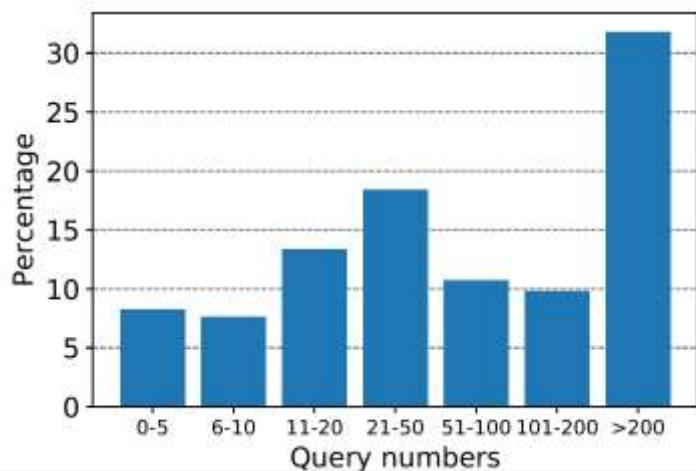


Query Log based User Modeling

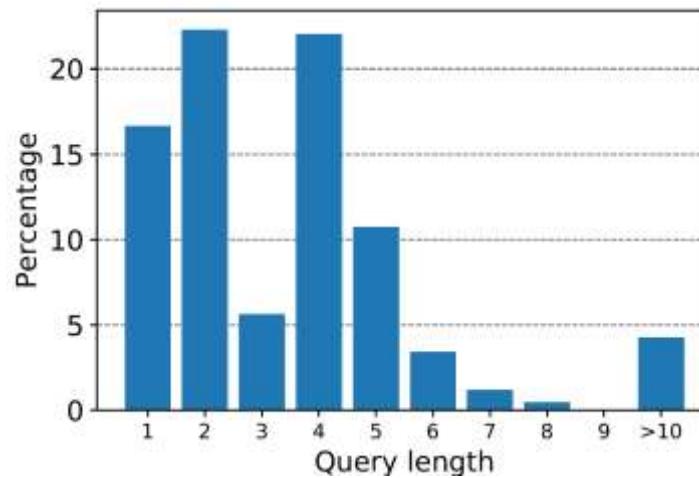


Experiments

- Dataset:
 - 15,346,617 users in total with age category labels
 - Randomly sampled 10,000 users for experiments
 - Search queries posted from October 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018

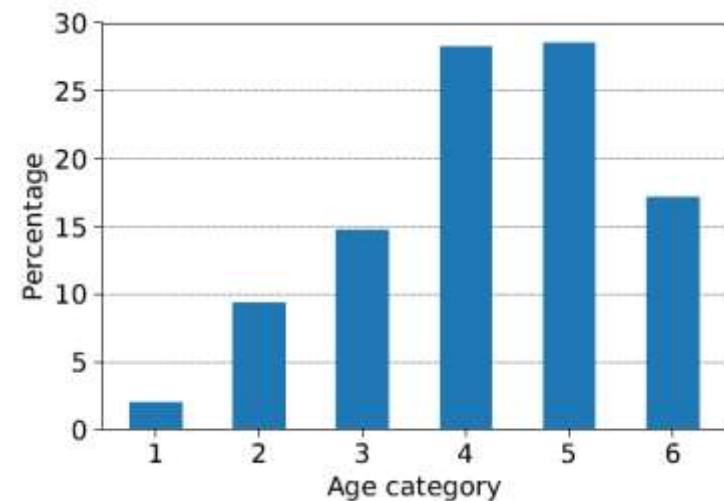


Distribution of query number per user



Distribution of query length

| Mapping between age category and age range | | | | | | |
|--|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------|
| Age category | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Age range | < 18 | [18, 24] | [25, 34] | [35, 49] | [50, 64] | > 64 |



Distribution of age category

Experiments

| | 10% | | 50% | | 100% | |
|----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Accuracy | Fscore | Accuracy | Fscore | Accuracy | Fscore |
| SVM | 31.97 | 21.96 | 34.20 | 26.32 | 34.53 | 27.44 |
| LR | 31.61 | 21.55 | 33.09 | 25.94 | 33.91 | 26.92 |
| LinReg | 27.12 | 17.38 | 29.64 | 22.48 | 30.34 | 23.52 |
| FastText | 28.65 | 21.09 | 30.40 | 23.55 | 30.90 | 24.01 |
| CNN | 30.08 | 19.66 | 35.58 | 26.17 | 37.31 | 26.96 |
| LSTM | 30.15 | 20.46 | 36.11 | 24.67 | 37.96 | 25.28 |
| HAN | 32.06 | 22.58 | 37.04 | 25.88 | 39.86 | 29.79 |
| HURA | 34.07 | 24.16 | 39.68 | 28.68 | 41.22 | 31.18 |



discrete feature, linear model



continuous feature, linear model

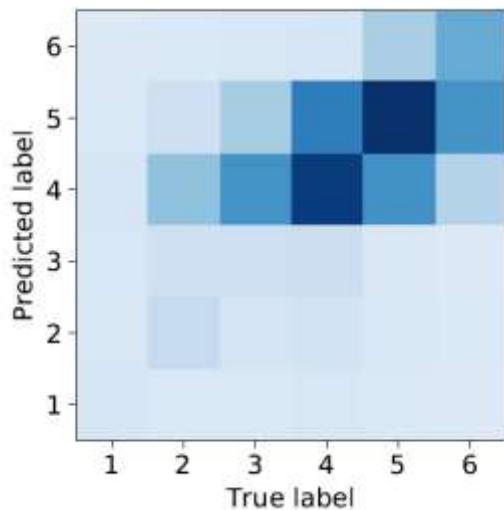


flat DNN models

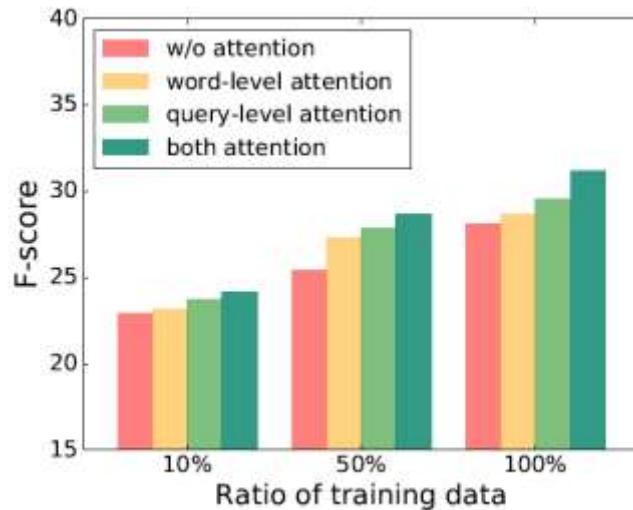


hierarchical LSTM model

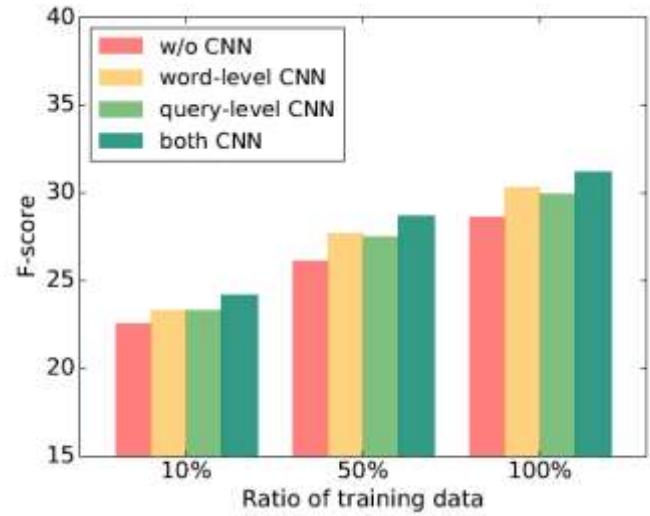
Experiments



Confusion matrix



Word-level and query-level attention



Word-level and query-level CNN networks

User Age Inference

| |
|--------------------------------|
| signin |
| unit 1 geometry basics answers |
| google |
| spanish |
| cool math games |
| quiz |
| office365 |
| login |

Queries from a young user

| |
|--------------------------------|
| mail |
| credit report |
| elderly tax credit form |
| county elderly tax credit form |
| google chrome install |
| vanguard login |
| car washes |
| western |

Queries from an elder user

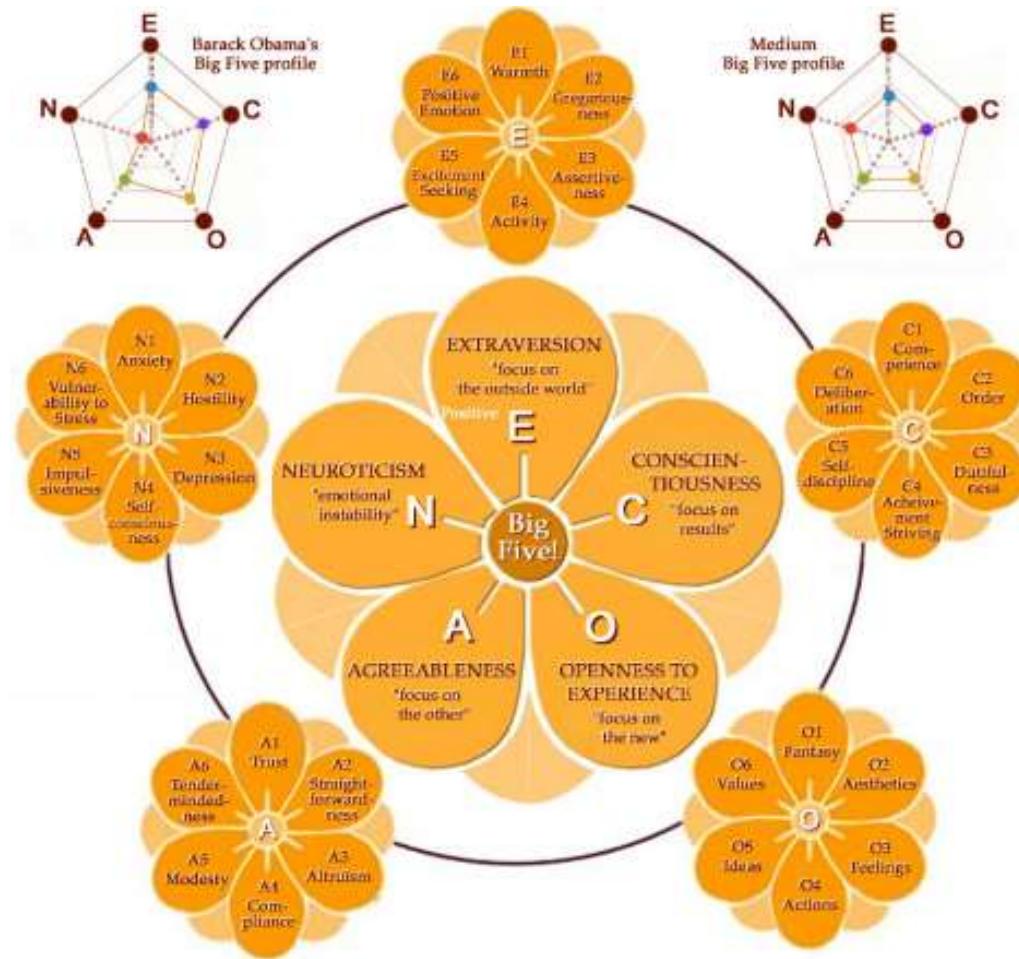
Car Segment

- 2018 mazda cx9 reliability
- mathway math problem solver
- open the dvd or cd drive in windows 10
- lowes van & truck rental
- facebook log in or sign up
- buying high quality cars at a low price
- plot summary imdb
- how can i block a phone number from my home phone

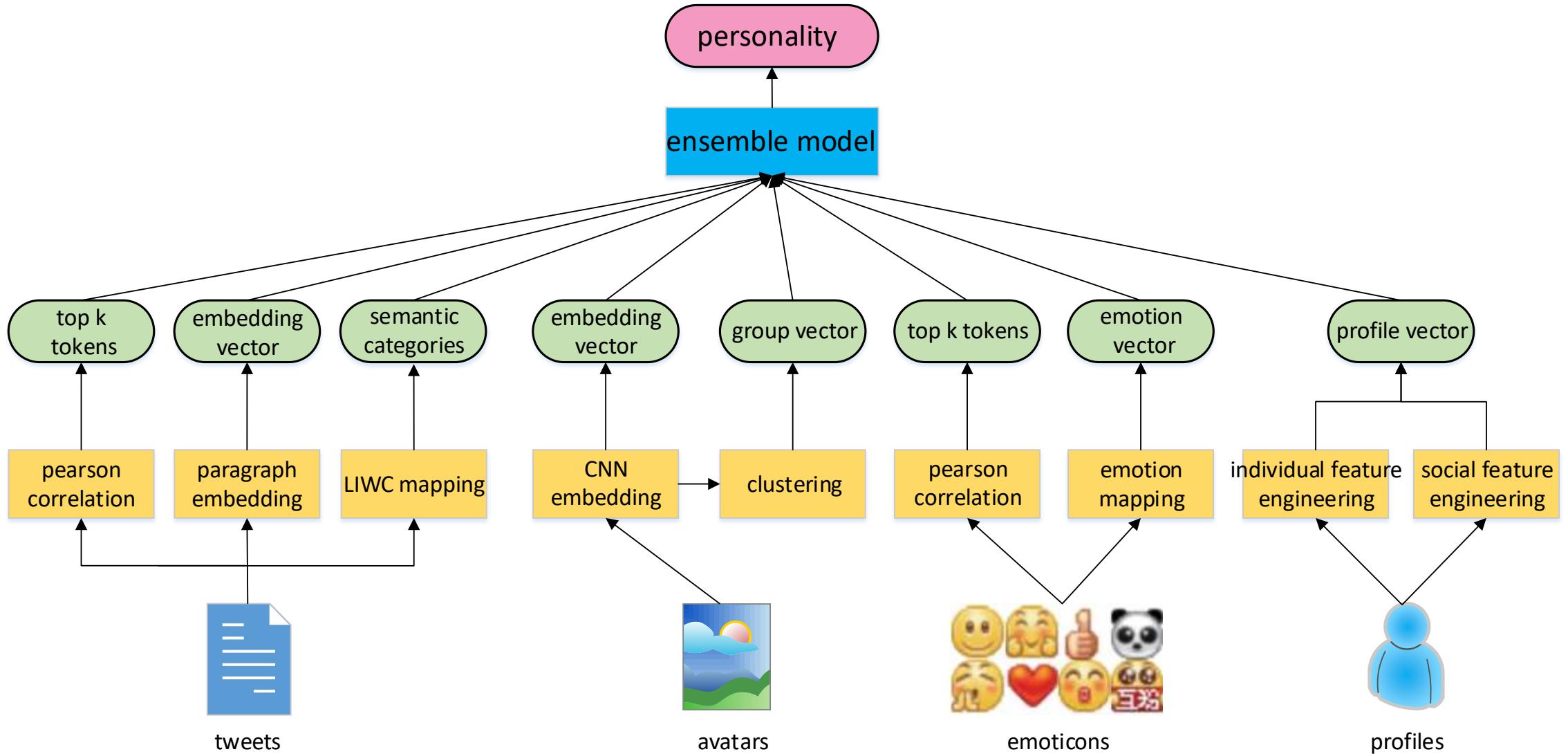
Pet Segment

- dog food, cat food, and treats
- the denver post official site
- easybib: free bibliography generator
- chords crowder guitar video
- akc golden retriever pet adoption northern California
- among large uk newspapers, which are considered
- gmail email from google
- heritage animal hospital care.com

Big Five



Personality Inference



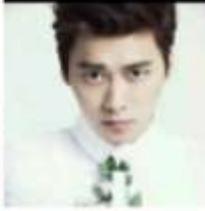
Data

- 3,162 users from a medical school
 - Major: nursing (524), clinical medicine (365) and pharmaceutics (342)
 - Region: Anhui, Zhejiang, and Jiangsu
 - Age: average 20.84
- Test Big Five Personality with a 44-item questionnaire

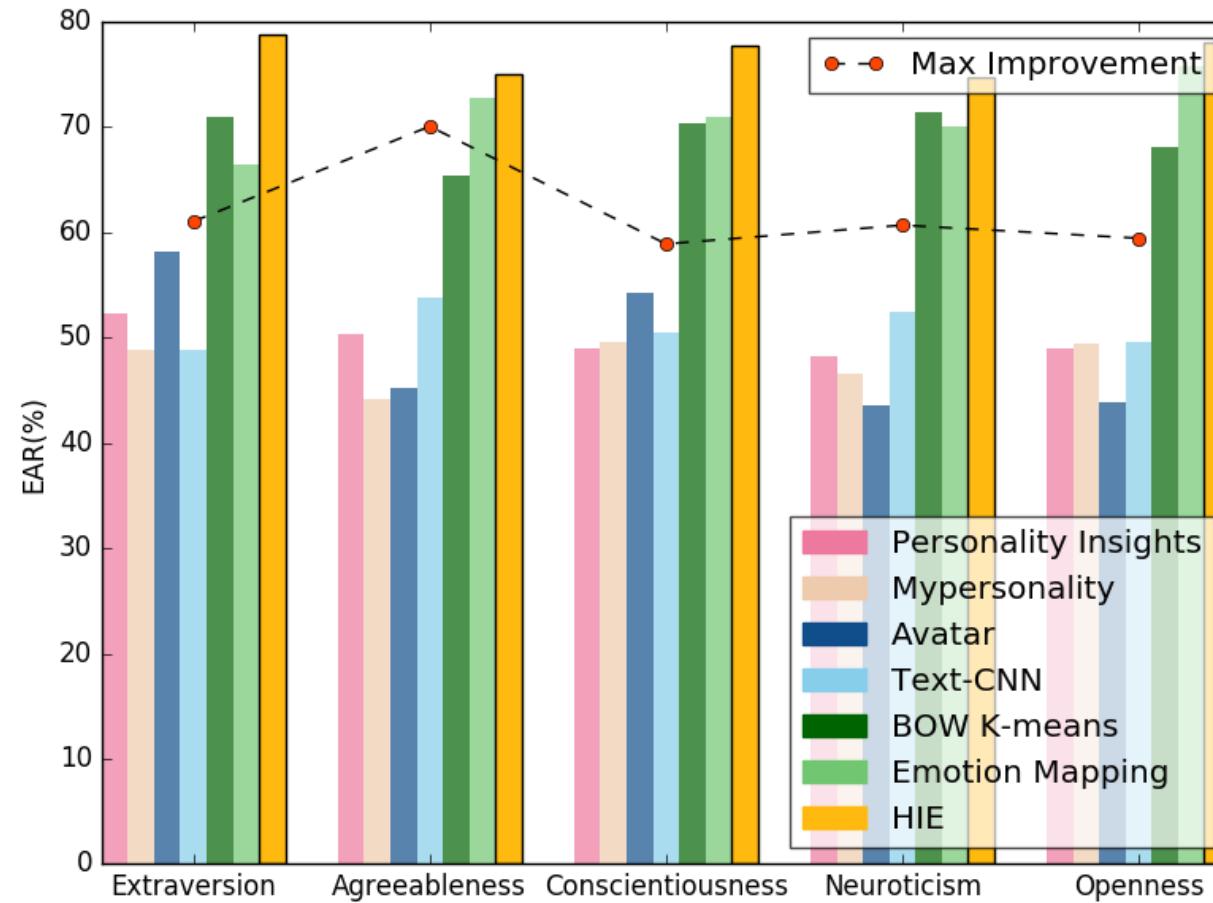
Correlation between Tweet and Personality

| | Extraversion | Agreeableness | Neuroticism | Conscientiousness | Openness |
|----------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|----------|
| Positive | | | | | |
| Negative | | | | | |

Correlation between Avatar and Personality

| | Extraversion | Agreeableness | Neuroticism | Conscientiousness | Openness |
|----------|--|---|--|--|--|
| Positive |   |   |   |   |   |
| Negative |   |   |   |   |   |

Experimental Results



Personality in Xiaoice



Personality in Advertising

Dance like no one's watching
(but they totally are)



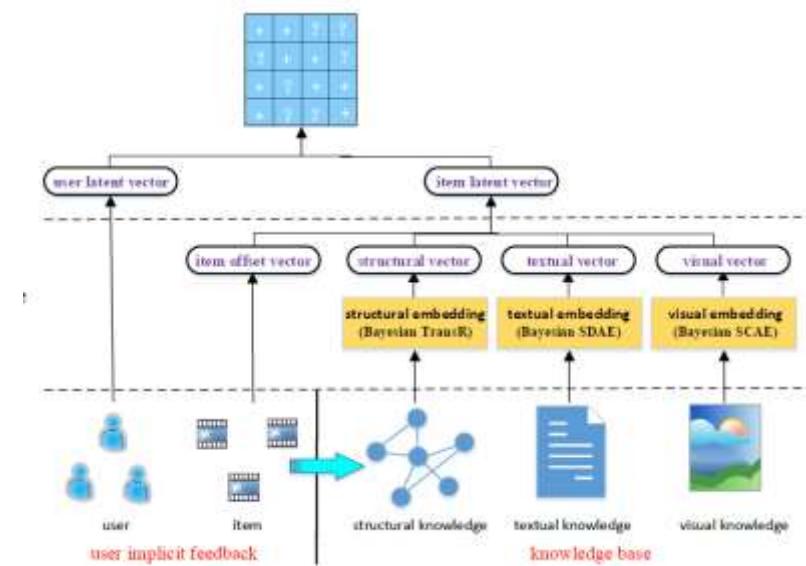
Beauty doesn't have to shout



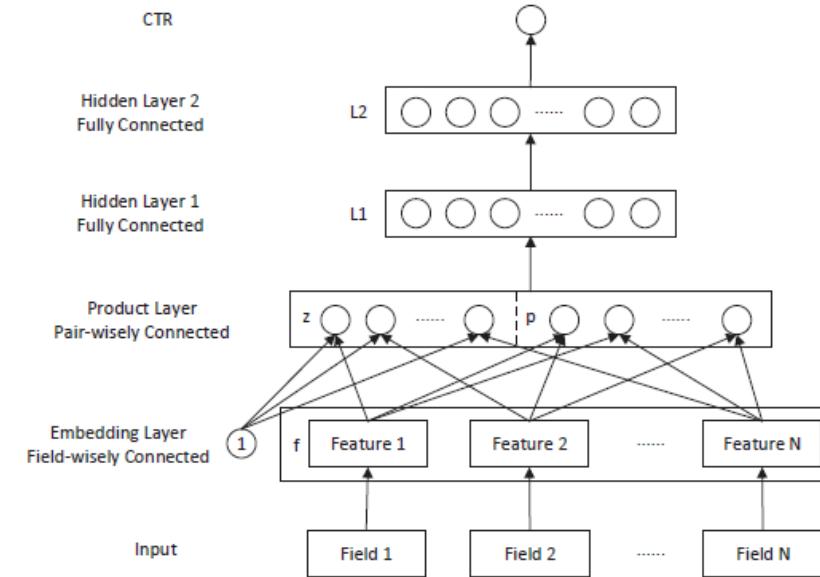
Tailoring messages to consumer personality increases effectiveness of digital advertising

Deep Learning Based Recommender System

Learning latent representations



Learning feature interactions



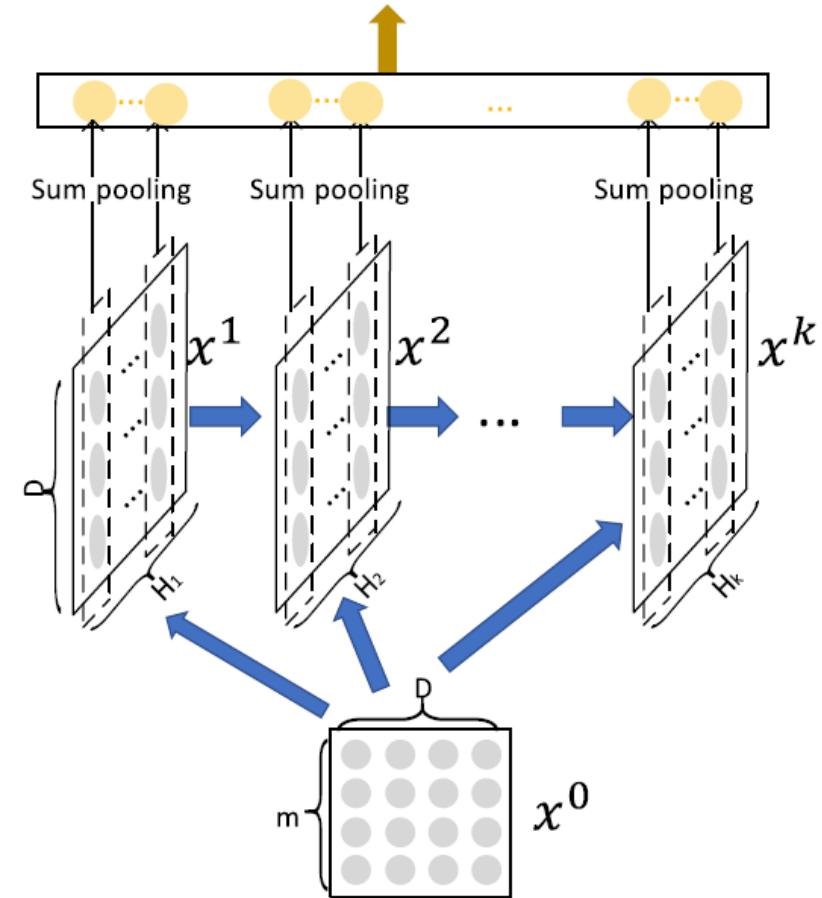
Motivations

- We try to design a new neural structure that
 - Automatically learns explicit high-order interactions
 - Vector-wise interaction, rather than bit-wise
 - $f(a_i, a_j) = \langle v_i, v_j \rangle a_i a_j$
 - Different types of feature interactions can be combined easily
- Goals
 - Higher accuracy
 - Reducing manual feature engineering work

Compressed Interaction Network (CIN)

- Hidden units at the k-th layer:

$$\mathbf{x}_{h,*}^k = \sum_{i=1}^{H_{k-1}} \sum_{j=1}^m \mathbf{w}_{ij}^{k,h} (\mathbf{x}_{i,*}^{k-1} \circ \mathbf{x}_{j,*}^0)$$

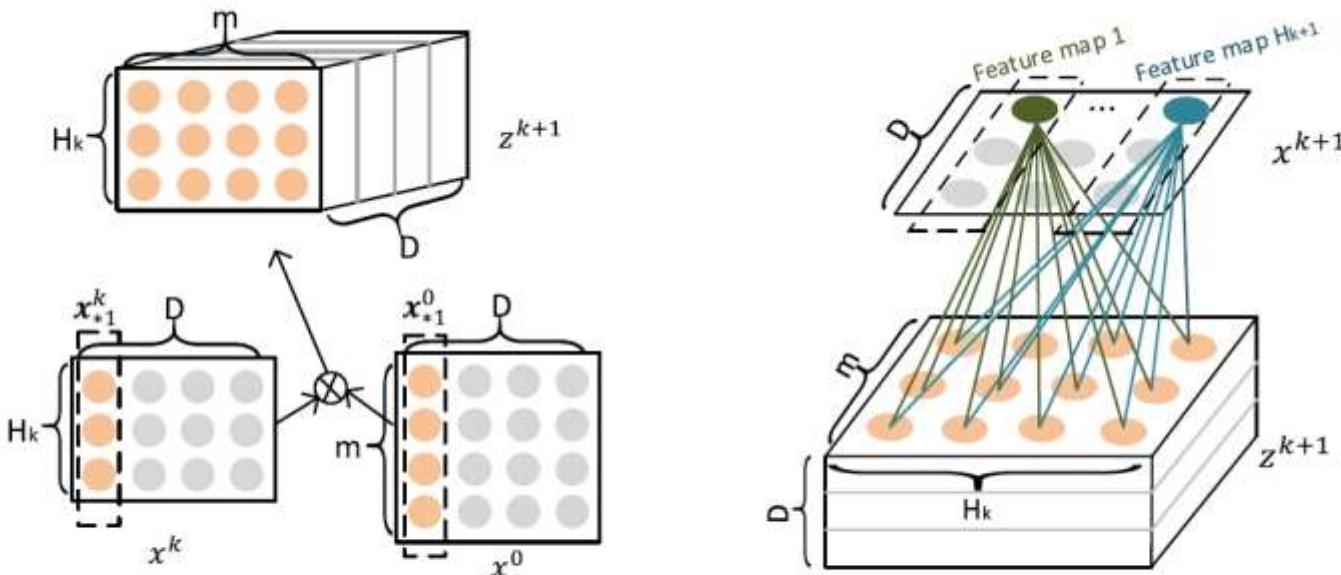


(c) An overview of the CIN architecture.

Compressed Interaction Network (CIN)

- Compression: interaction space from $O(m^2)$ down to $O(H_k)$
 - E.g., FM conduct the full pair-wise interaction, including necessary and unnecessary
- Keep the form of vectors
 - Hidden layers are matrices, rather than vectors
- Degree of feature interactions increases with the depth of layers (explicit)

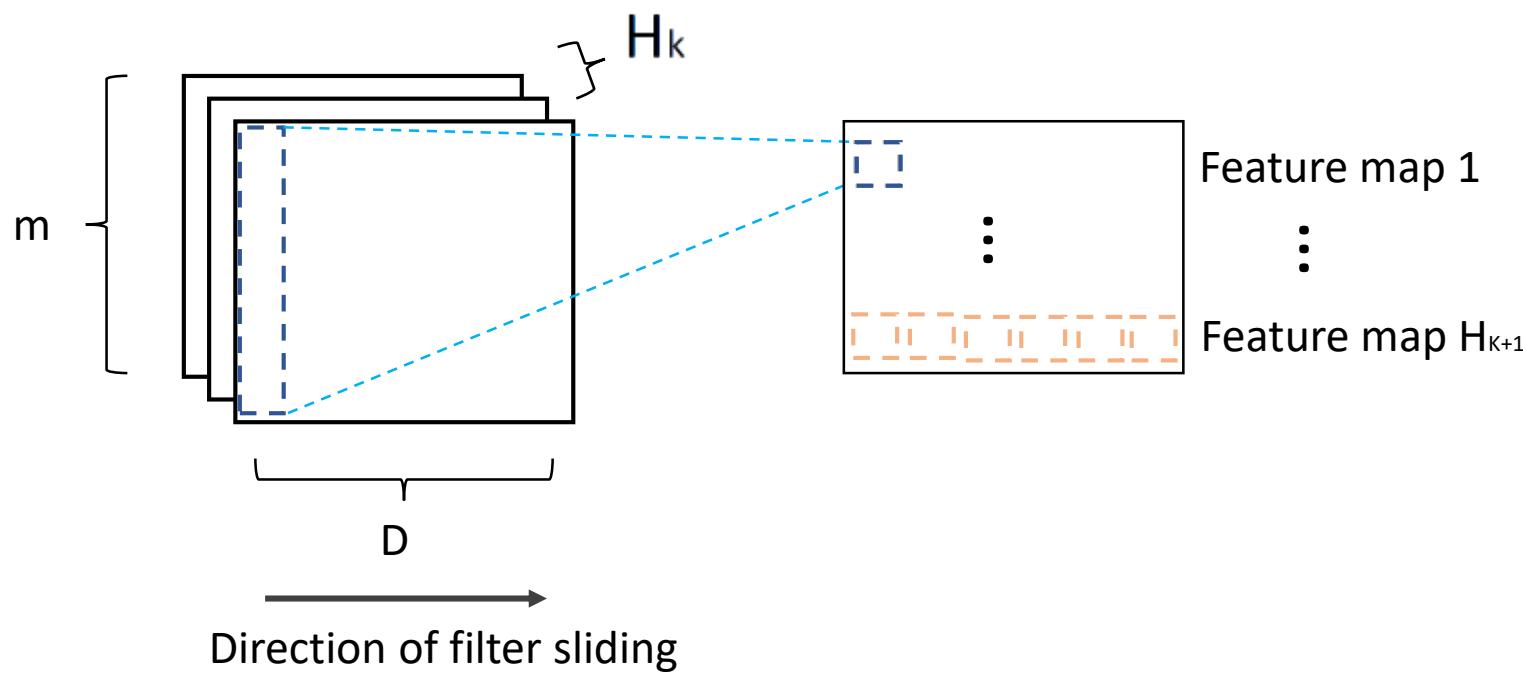
Compressed Interaction Network (CIN)



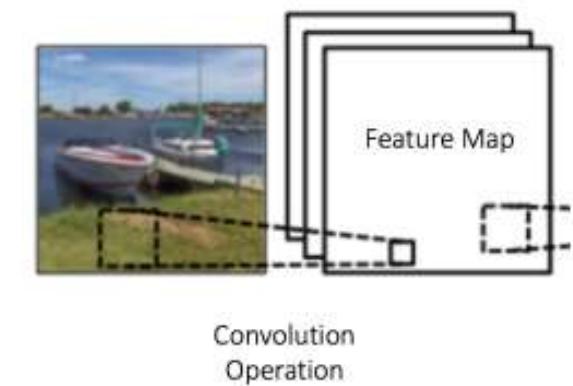
(a) Outer products along each dimension for feature interactions. The tensor Z^{k+1} is an intermediate result for further learning.

(b) The k -th layer of CIN. It compresses the intermediate tensor Z^{k+1} to H_{k+1} embedding vectors (also known as *feature maps*).

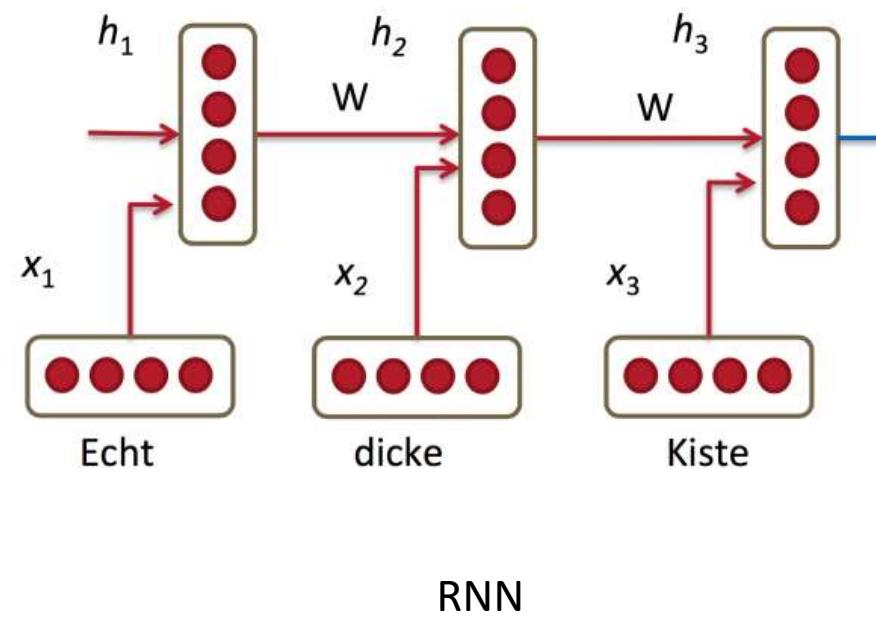
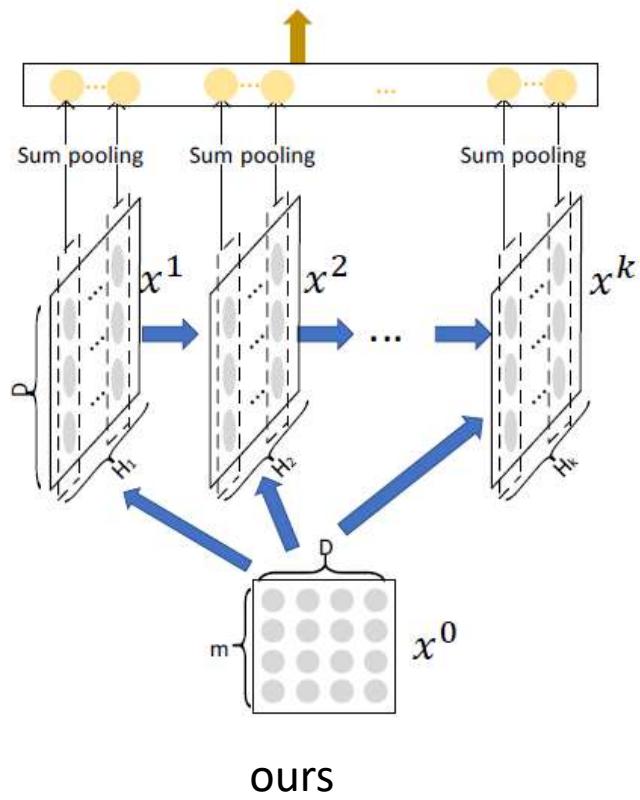
Relation with CNN



An example of image CNN



Relation with RNN



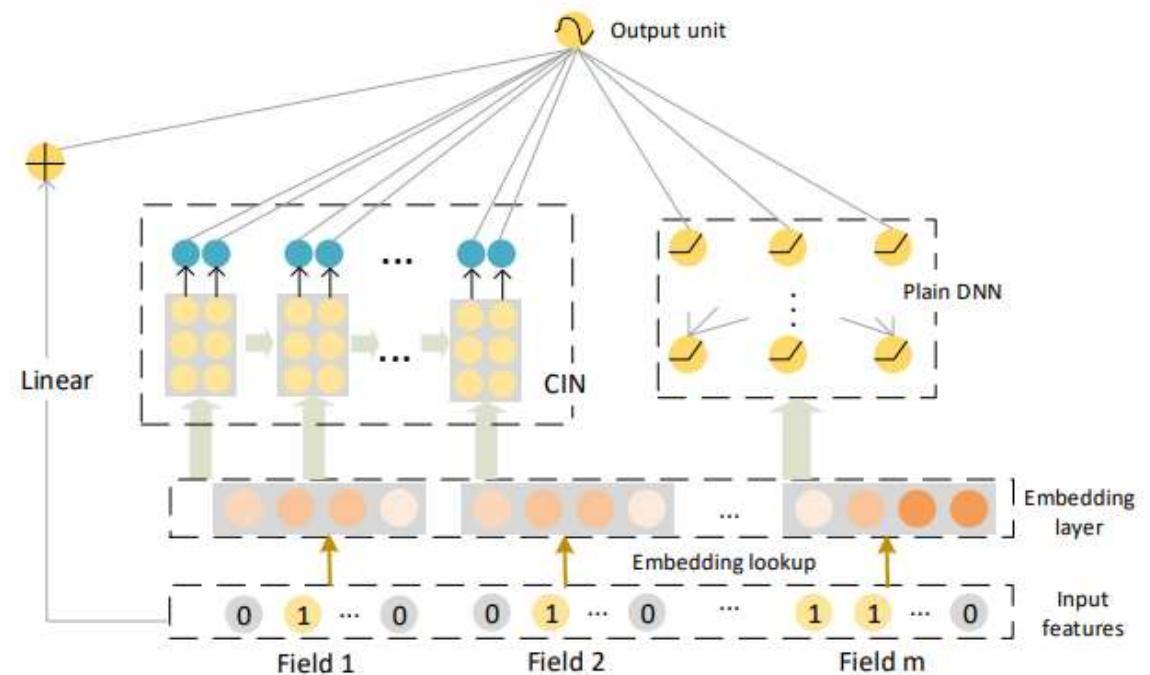
Extreme Deep Factorization Machine (xDeepFM)

- Combining explicit and implicit feature interaction network
 - Integrate both memorization and generalization

$$\hat{y} = \sigma(\mathbf{w}_{linear}^T \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{w}_{dnn}^T \mathbf{x}_{dnn}^k + \mathbf{w}_{cin}^T \mathbf{p}^+ + b)$$

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N y_i \log \hat{y}_i + (1 - y_i) \log (1 - \hat{y}_i)$$

$$\mathcal{J} = \mathcal{L} + \lambda_* ||\Theta||$$



Experiments

- Three real-world datasets
 - Criteo: ads click-through-rate prediction
 - Dianping: restaurant recommendation
 - Bing News: news recommendation

| Datasets | #instances | #fields | #features (sparse) |
|-----------|------------|---------|--------------------|
| Criteo | 45M | 39 | 2.3M |
| Dianping | 1.2M | 18 | 230K |
| Bing News | 5M | 45 | 17K |

- Evaluation metrics
 - AUC
 - Logloss

Experiments

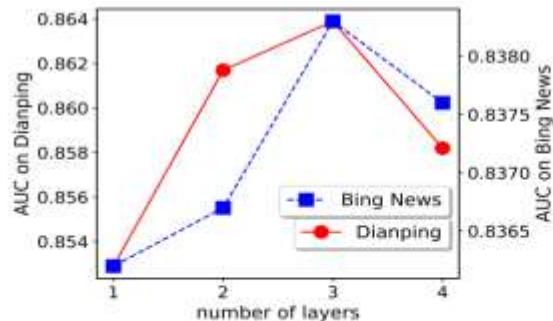
- High-order interactions are necessary
- Effectiveness of CIN

| Model name | AUC | Logloss | Depth |
|------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| Criteo | | | |
| FM | 0.7900 | 0.4592 | - |
| DNN | 0.7993 | 0.4491 | 2 |
| CrossNet | 0.7961 | 0.4508 | 3 |
| CIN | 0.8012 | 0.4493 | 3 |
| Dianping | | | |
| FM | 0.8165 | 0.3558 | - |
| DNN | 0.8318 | 0.3382 | 3 |
| CrossNet | 0.8283 | 0.3404 | 2 |
| CIN | 0.8576 | 0.3225 | 2 |
| Bing News | | | |
| FM | 0.8223 | 0.2779 | - |
| DNN | 0.8366 | 0.273 | 2 |
| CrossNet | 0.8304 | 0.2765 | 6 |
| CIN | 0.8377 | 0.2662 | 5 |

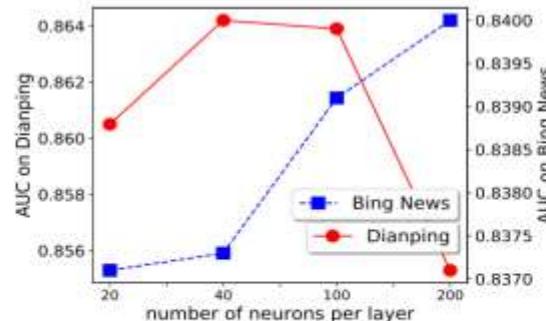
Experiments

| Model name | Criteo | | | Dianping | | | Bing News | | |
|------------|---------------|---------------|-------|---------------|---------------|-------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| | AUC | Logloss | Depth | AUC | Logloss | Depth | AUC | Logloss | Depth |
| LR | 0.7577 | 0.4854 | -,- | 0.8018 | 0.3608 | -,- | 0.7988 | 0.2950 | -,- |
| FM | 0.7900 | 0.4592 | -,- | 0.8165 | 0.3558 | -,- | 0.8223 | 0.2779 | -,- |
| DNN | 0.7993 | 0.4491 | -,2 | 0.8318 | 0.3382 | -,3 | 0.8366 | 0.2730 | -,2 |
| DCN | 0.8026 | 0.4467 | 2,2 | 0.8391 | 0.3379 | 4,3 | 0.8379 | 0.2677 | 2,2 |
| Wide&Deep | 0.8000 | 0.4490 | -,3 | 0.8361 | 0.3364 | -,2 | 0.8377 | 0.2668 | -,2 |
| PNN | 0.8038 | 0.4927 | -,2 | 0.8445 | 0.3424 | -,3 | 0.8321 | 0.2775 | -,3 |
| DeepFM | 0.8025 | 0.4468 | -,2 | 0.8481 | 0.3333 | -,2 | 0.8376 | 0.2671 | -,3 |
| xDeepFM | 0.8052 | 0.4418 | 3,2 | 0.8639 | 0.3156 | 3,3 | 0.8400 | 0.2649 | 3,2 |

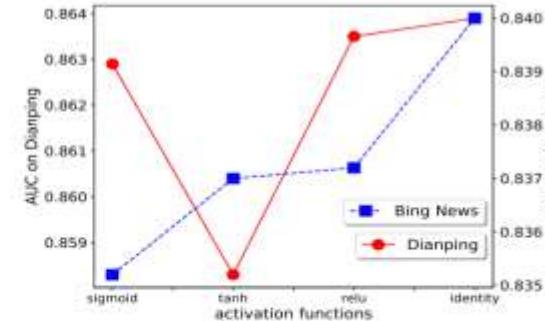
Hyper-Parameter Sensitivity



(a) Number of layers.

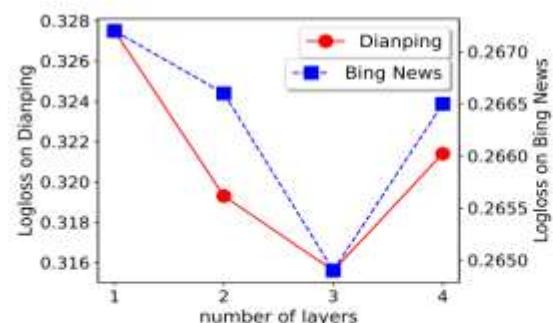


(b) Number of neurons per layer.

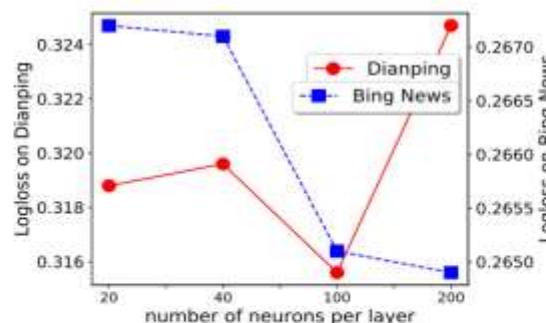


(c) Activation functions

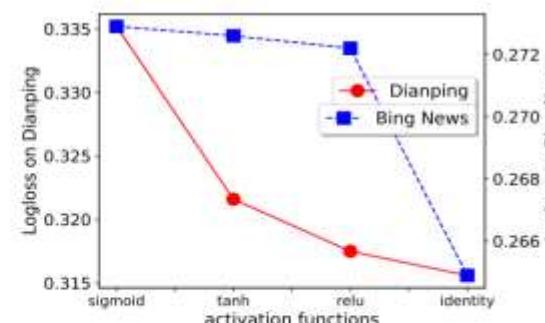
Figure 6: Impact of network hyper-parameters on AUC performance.



(a) Number of layers.



(b) Number of neurons per layer.



(c) Activation functions

Figure 7: Impact of network hyper-parameters on Logloss performance.

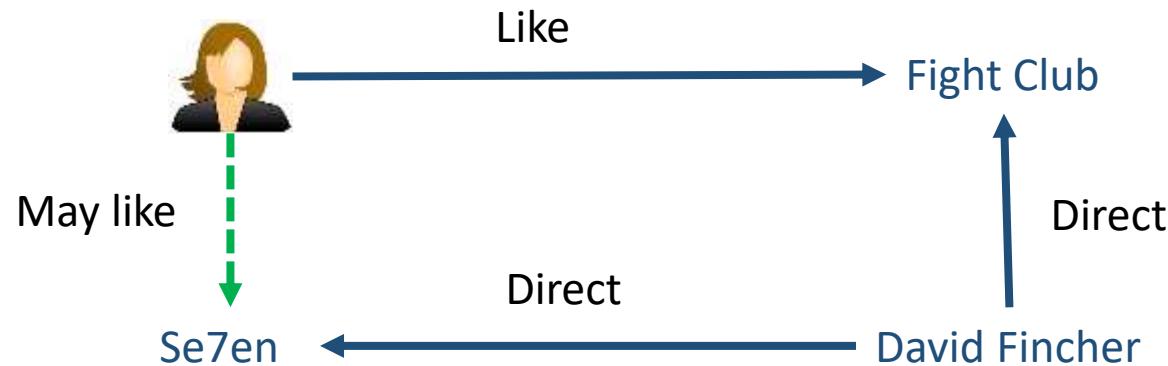
Knowledge Graph

- A kind of semantic network, where node indicates entity or concept, edge indicates the semantic relation between entity/concept



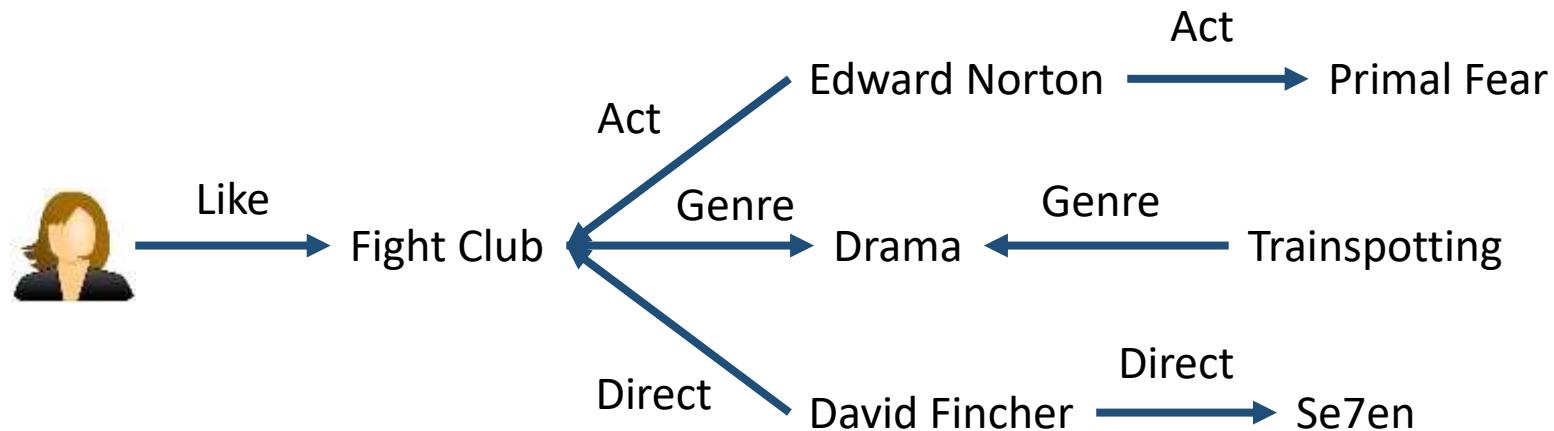
How Does Knowledge Graph Help?

- Precision
 - More semantic content about items
 - Deep user interest



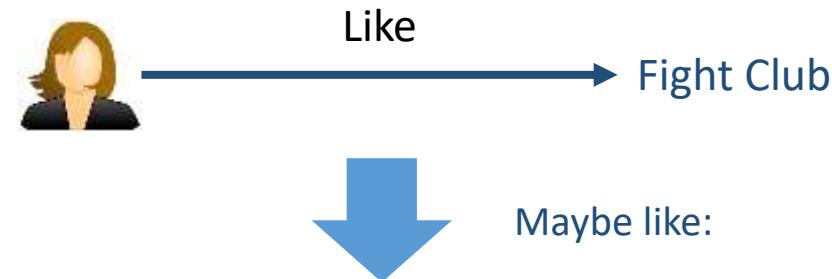
How Does Knowledge Graph Help?

- Diversity
 - Different types of relations in knowledge graph
 - Extend user's interest in different paths



How Does Knowledge Graph Help?

- Explanation ability
 - Connect user interest and recommendation results
 - Improve user satisfaction, boost user trust



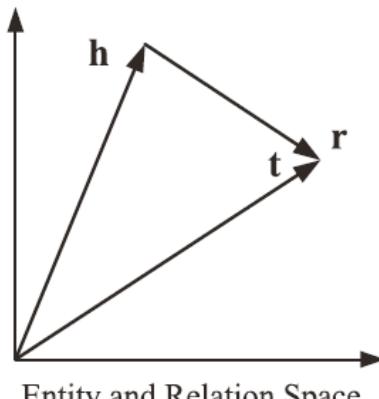
Primal Fear, because they share the same actor
Trainspotting, because they share the same genre
Se7en, because they share the same director

Knowledge Graph Embedding

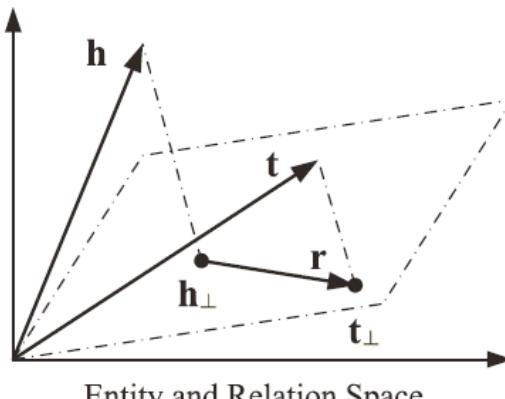
- Learns a low-dimensional vector for each entity and relation in KG, which can keep the structural and semantic knowledge

Distance-based Models

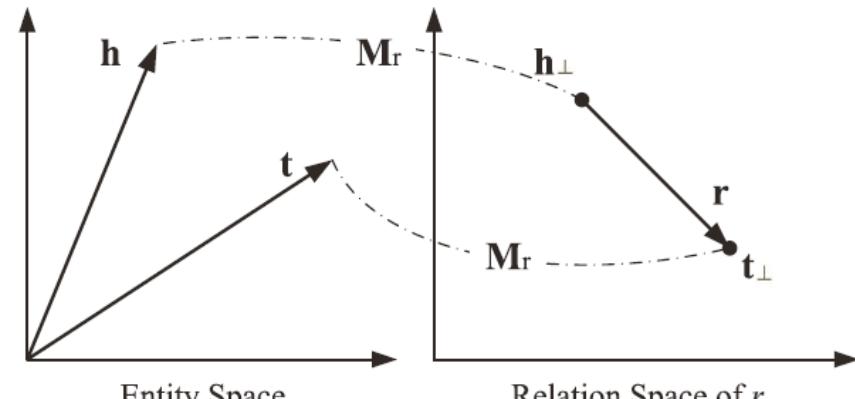
- ❑ Apply distance-based score function to estimate the triple probability
- ❑ TransE, TransH, TransR, etc.



(a) TransE.



(b) TransH.

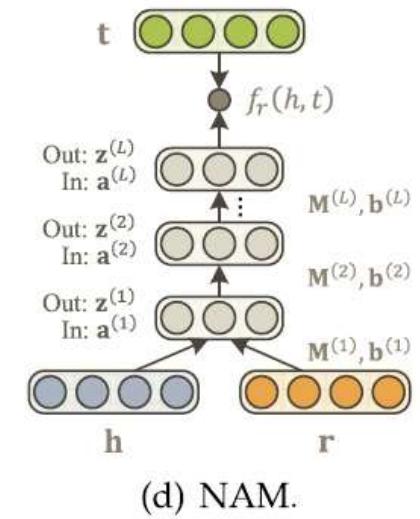
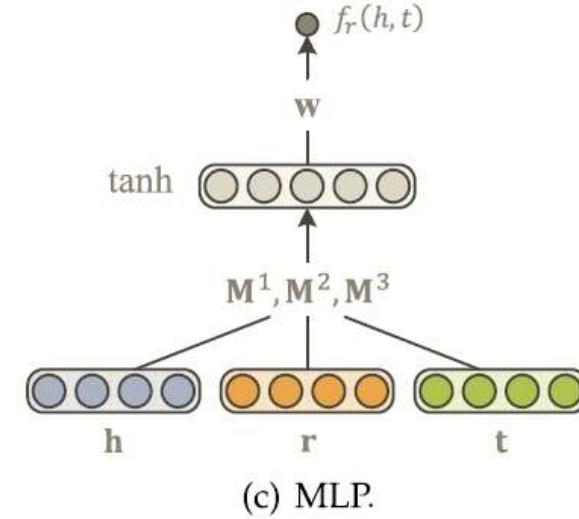
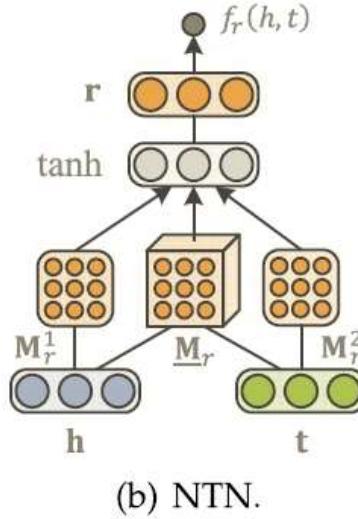
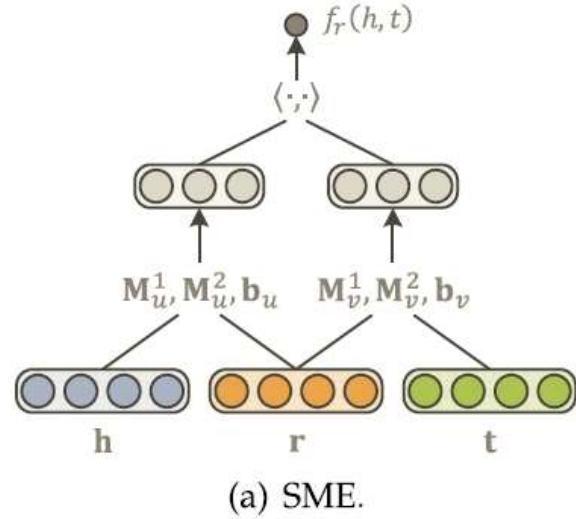


(c) TransR.

Knowledge Graph Embedding

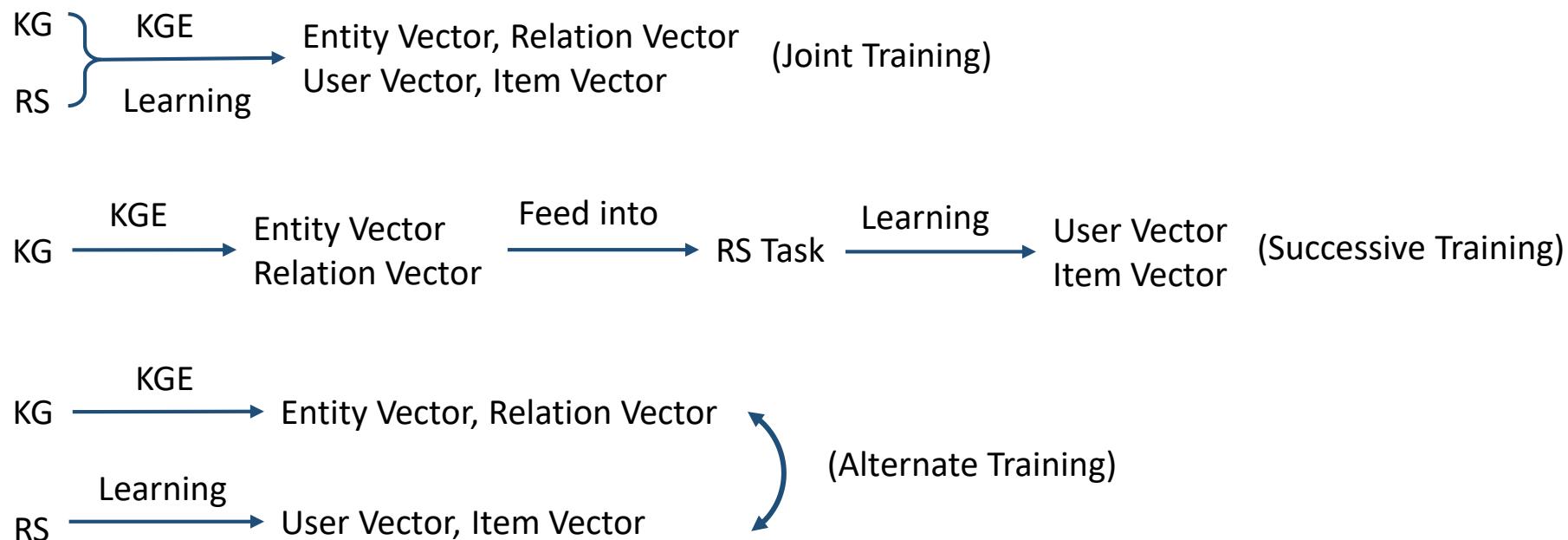
Matching-based Models

- ❑ Apply similarity-based score function to estimate the triple probability
- ❑ SME, NTN, MLP, NAM, etc.



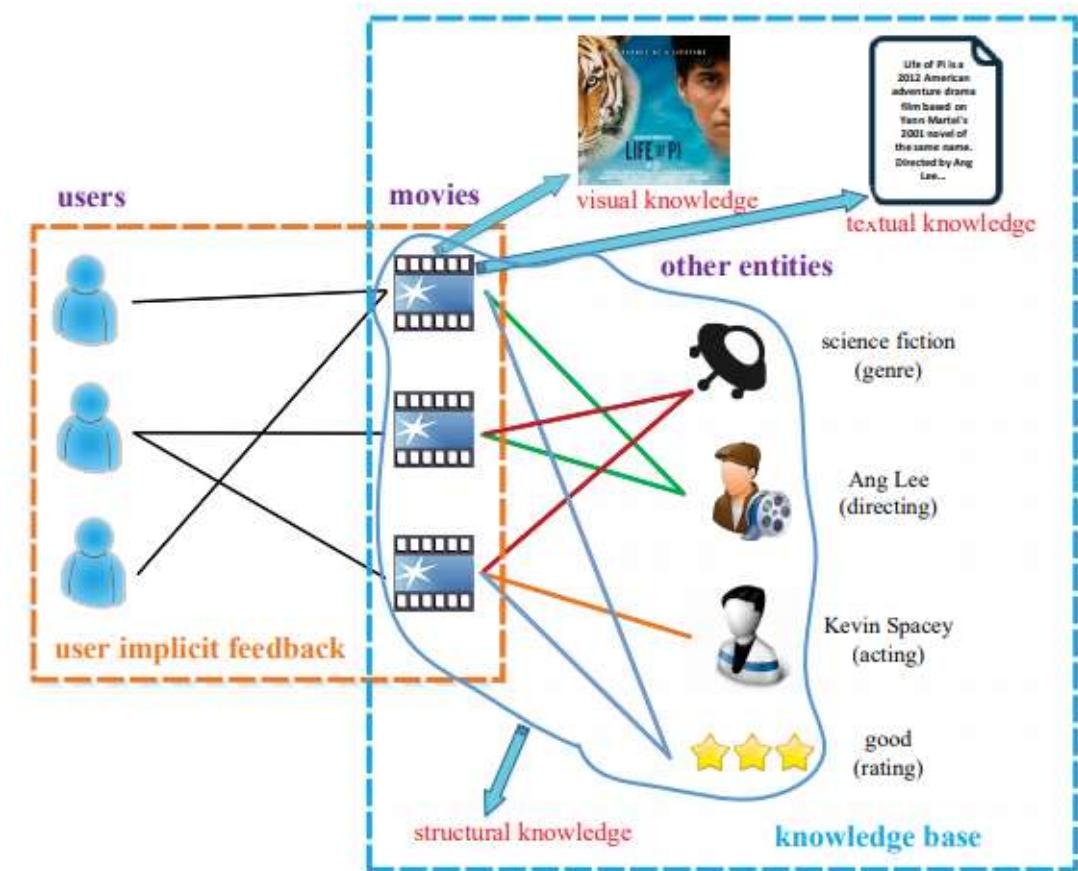
Knowledge Graph Embedding (KGE)

- Learns a low-dimensional vector for each entity and relation, which can keep the structural and semantic knowledge

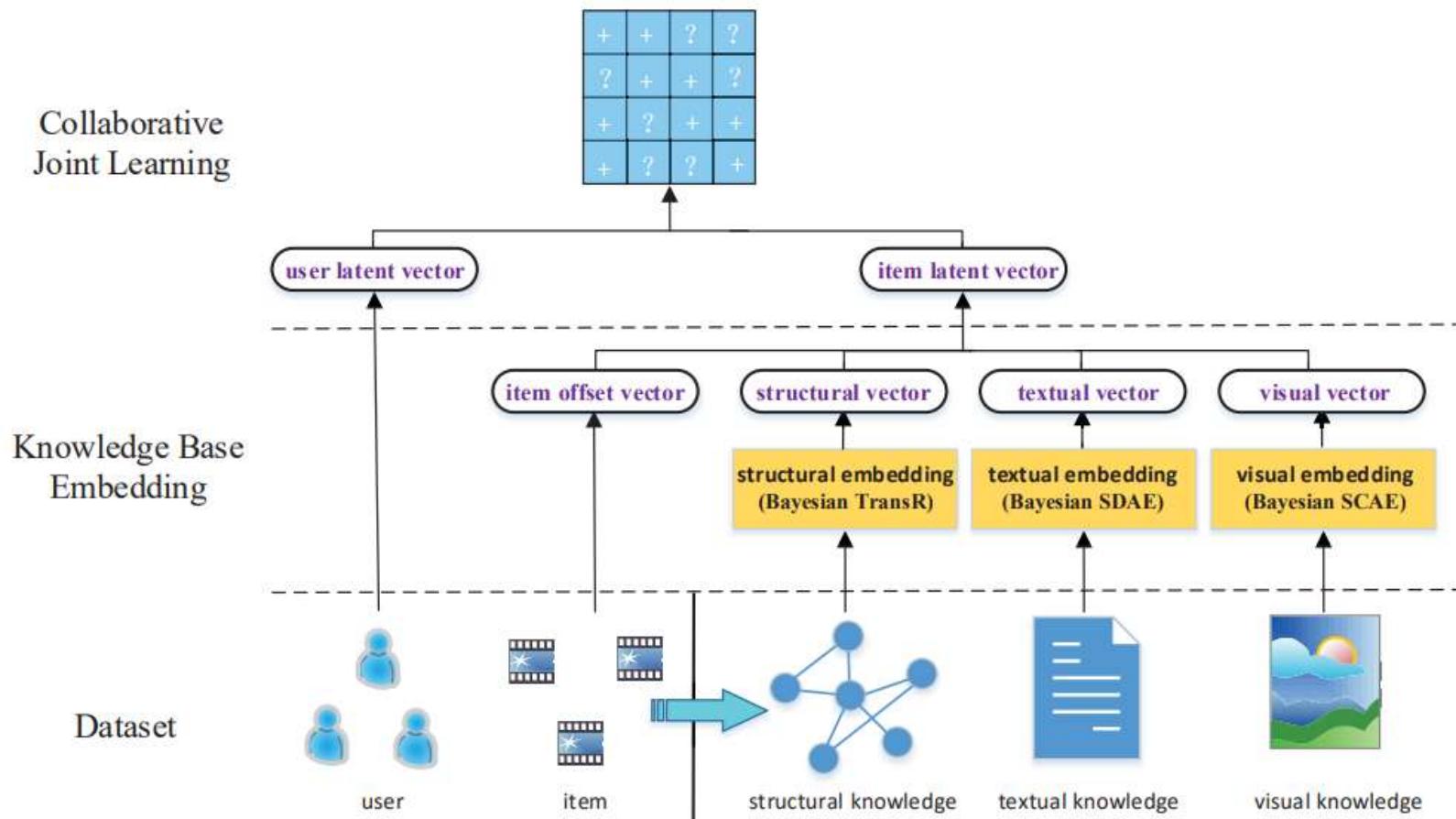


Collaborative Knowledge Embedding (Joint Training)

- Structural knowledge
 - Direct, act, etc.
- Visual knowledge
 - Movie poster, book cover image, etc.
- Textual knowledge
 - Movie description, reviews, etc.



Collaborative Knowledge Embedding



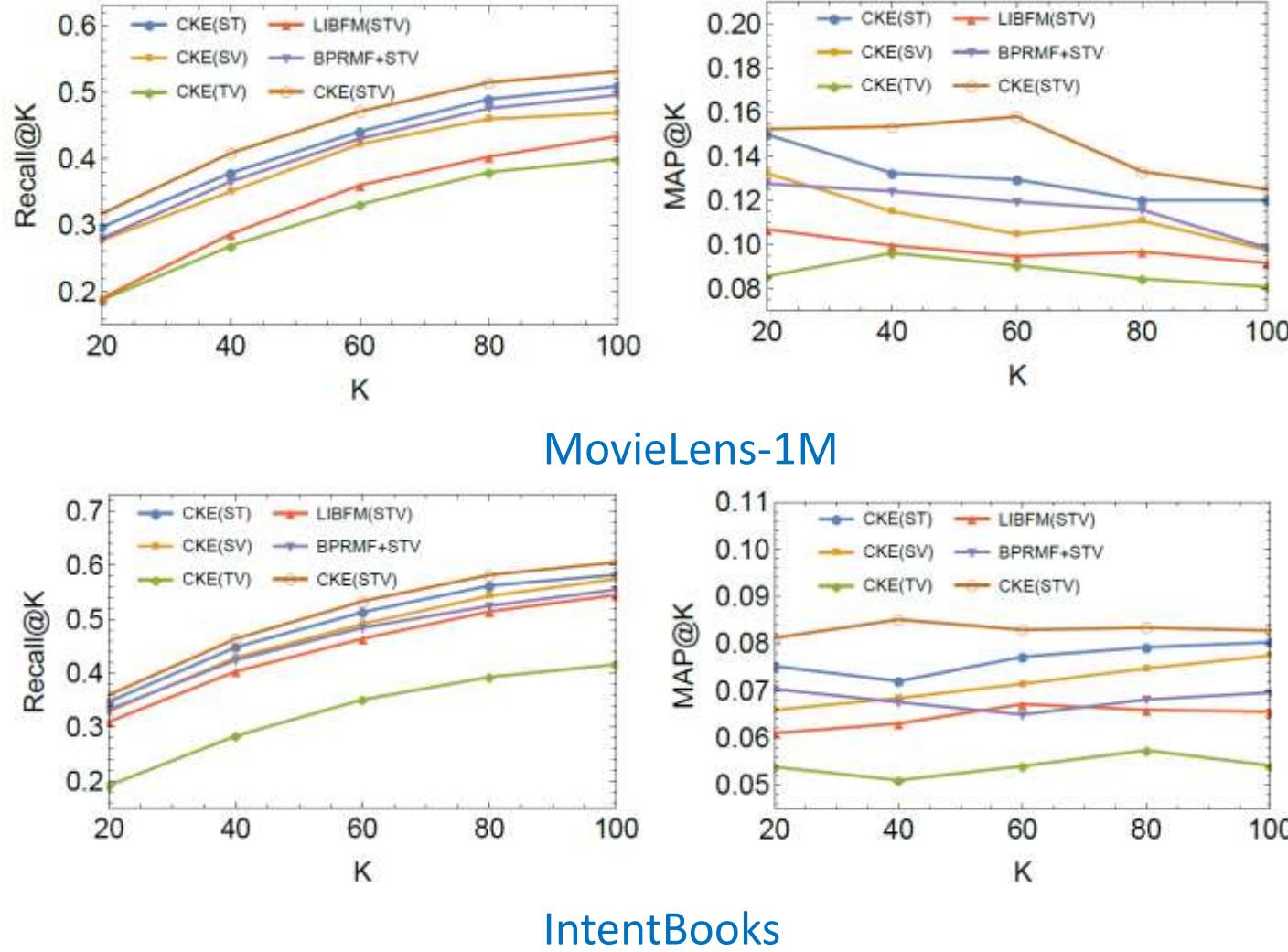
Data

- MovieLens-1M
 - 1-step subgraph includes category, director, writer, actors, language, country, production date, rating, nominated awards, and received awards
- IntentBooks
 - 9-month Bing query logs, apply entity linking to find out book entity
 - 1-step subgraph includes category, author, publish date, belonged series, language, and rating

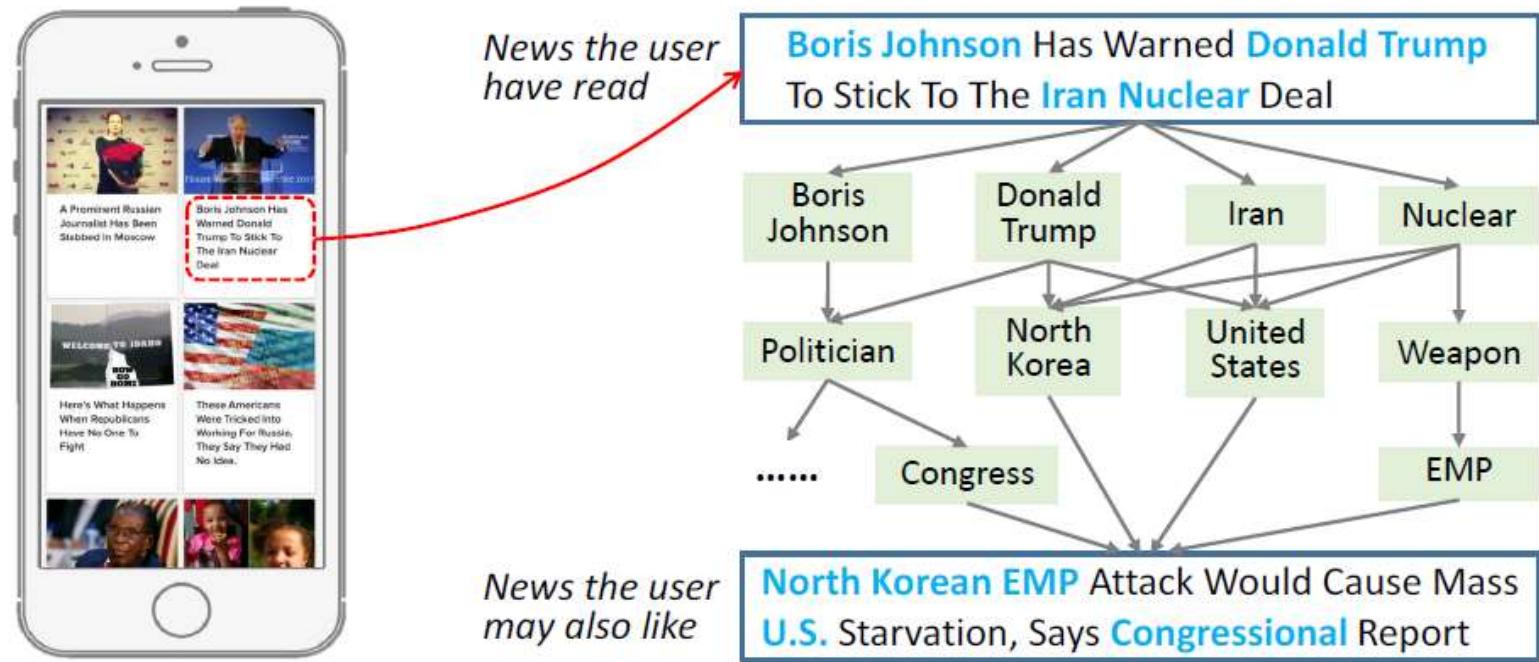
| | MovieLens-1M | IntentBooks |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| #user | 5,883 | 92,564 |
| #item | 3,230 | 18,475 |
| #interactions | 226,101 | 897,871 |
| #sk nodes | 84,011 | 26,337 |
| #sk edges | 169,368 | 57,408 |
| #sk edge types | 10 | 6 |
| #tk items | 2,752 | 17,331 |
| #vk items | 2,958 | 16,719 |

Results

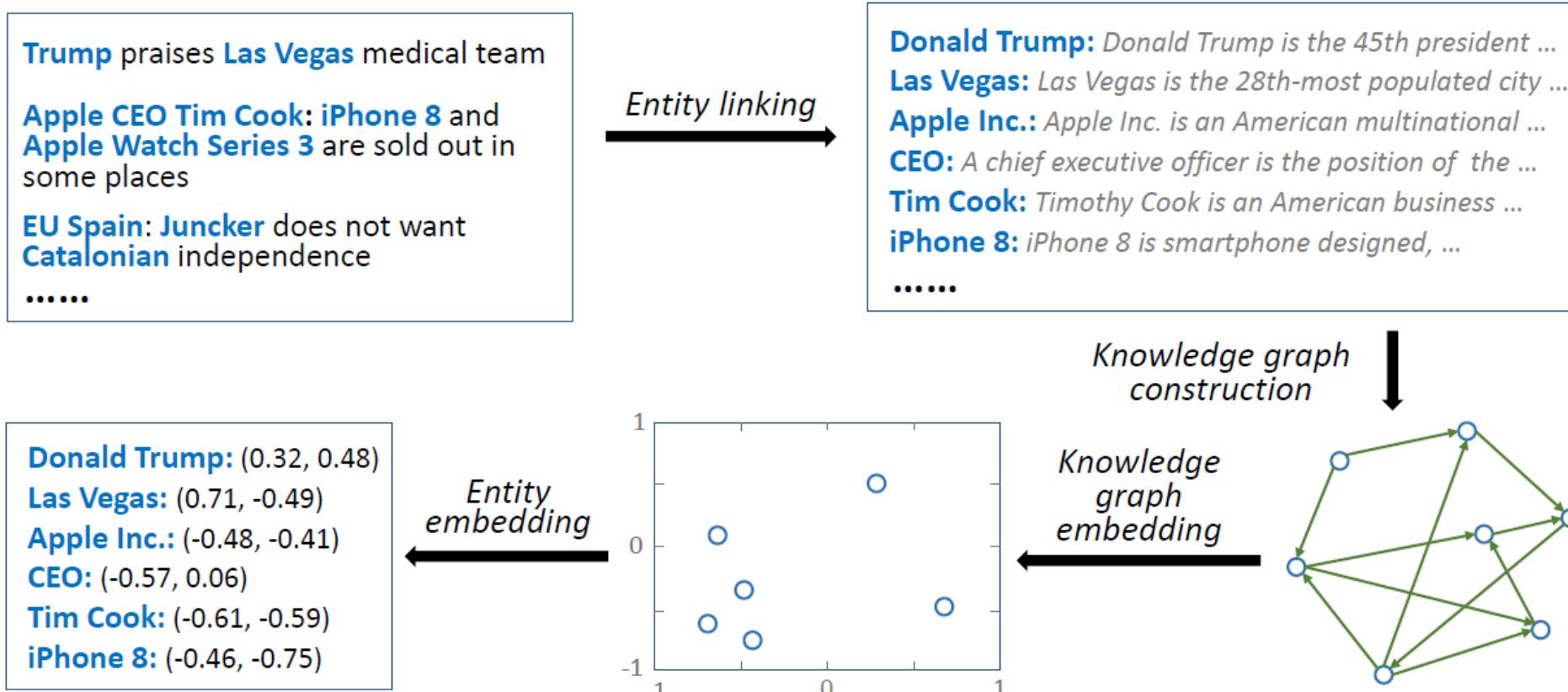
- Baselines
 - CKE(ST), CKE(SV), CKE(TV): only two types of knowledge
 - LIBFM(STV): all knowledge as raw features
 - BPRMF+STV: not joint-learning



Deep Knowledge-aware Network (Successive Training)

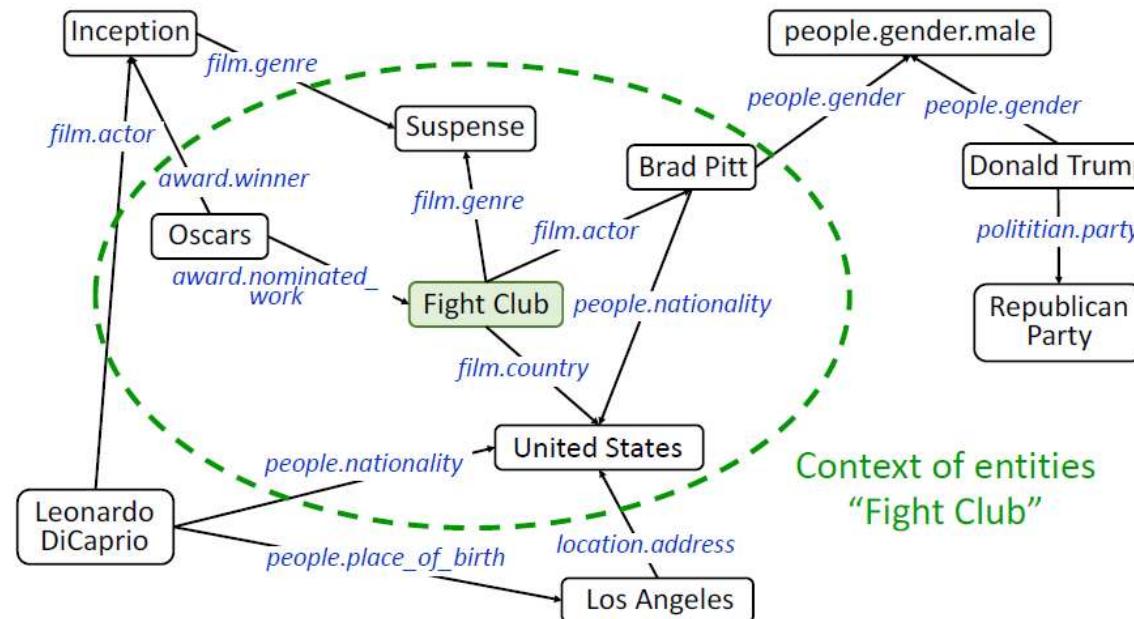


Deep Knowledge-aware Network

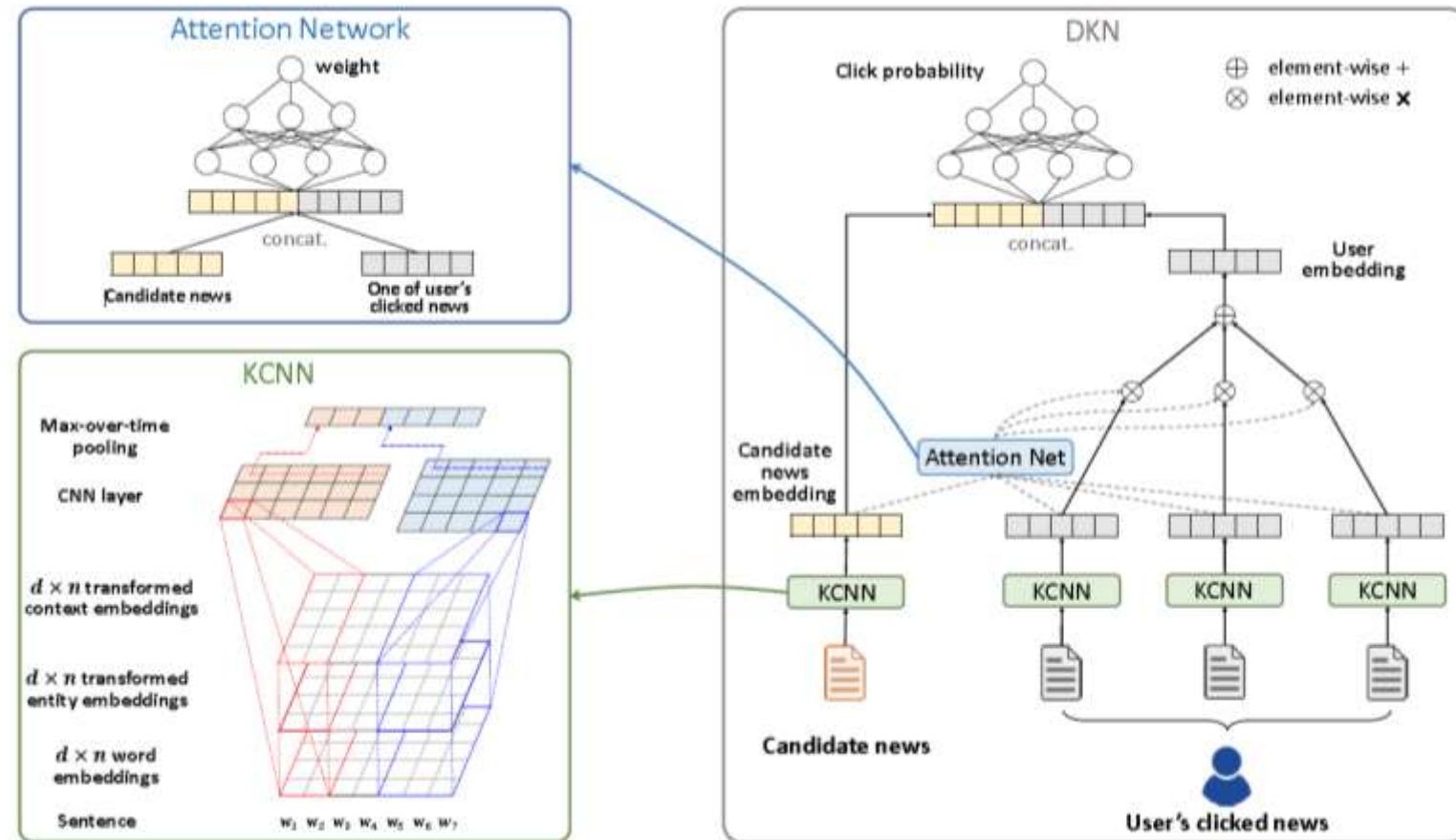


Extract Knowledge Representations

- Additionally use contextual entity embeddings to include structural information
- Context implies one-step neighbor



Deep Knowledge-aware Network

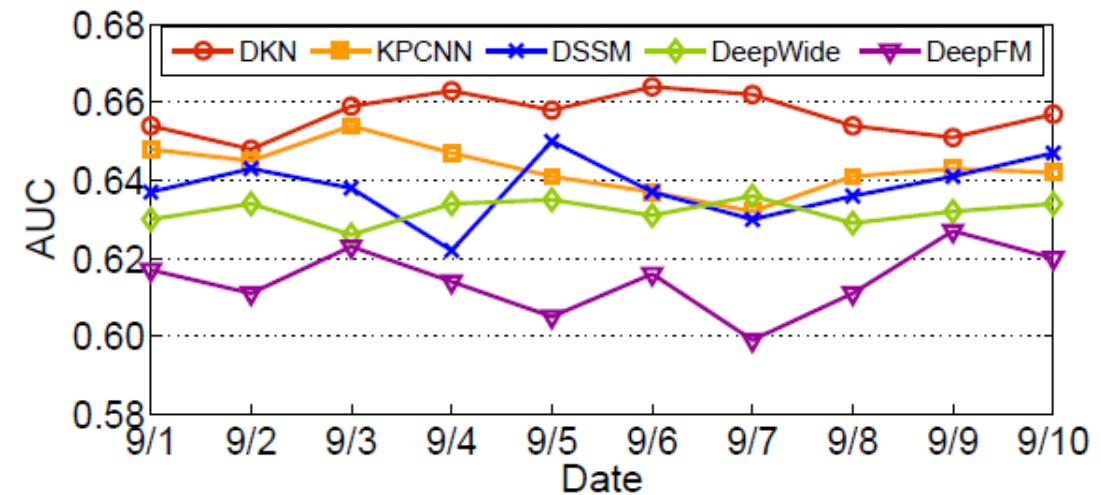


Experiments

| Models* | F1 | AUC | <i>p</i> -value** |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| DKN | 68.9 ± 1.5 | 65.9 ± 1.2 | — |
| LibFM | 61.8 ± 2.1 (-10.3%) | 59.7 ± 1.8 (-9.4%) | < 10 ⁻³ |
| LibFM(-) | 61.1 ± 1.9 (-11.3%) | 58.9 ± 1.7 (-10.6%) | < 10 ⁻³ |
| KPCNN | 67.0 ± 1.6 (-2.8%) | 64.2 ± 1.4 (-2.6%) | 0.098 |
| KPCNN(-) | 65.8 ± 1.4 (-4.5%) | 63.1 ± 1.5 (-4.2%) | 0.036 |
| DSSM | 66.7 ± 1.8 (-3.2%) | 63.6 ± 2.0 (-3.5%) | 0.063 |
| DSSM(-) | 66.1 ± 1.6 (-4.1%) | 63.2 ± 1.8 (-4.1%) | 0.045 |
| DeepWide | 66.0 ± 1.2 (-4.2%) | 63.3 ± 1.5 (-3.9%) | 0.039 |
| DeepWide(-) | 63.7 ± 0.9 (-7.5%) | 61.5 ± 1.1 (-6.7%) | 0.004 |
| DeepFM | 63.8 ± 1.5 (-7.4%) | 61.2 ± 2.3 (-7.1%) | 0.014 |
| DeepFM(-) | 64.0 ± 1.9 (-7.1%) | 61.1 ± 1.8 (-7.3%) | 0.007 |
| YouTubeNet | 65.5 ± 1.2 (-4.9%) | 63.0 ± 1.4 (-4.4%) | 0.025 |
| YouTubeNet(-) | 65.1 ± 0.7 (-5.5%) | 62.1 ± 1.3 (-5.8%) | 0.011 |
| DMF | 57.2 ± 1.2 (-17.0%) | 55.3 ± 1.0 (-16.1%) | < 10 ⁻³ |

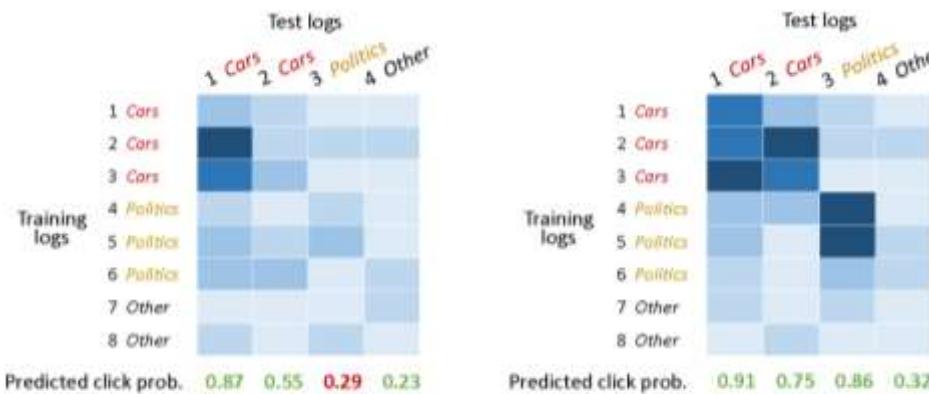
* “(-)” denotes “without input of entity embeddings”.

** *p*-value is the probability of no significant difference with DKN on AUC by *t*-test.



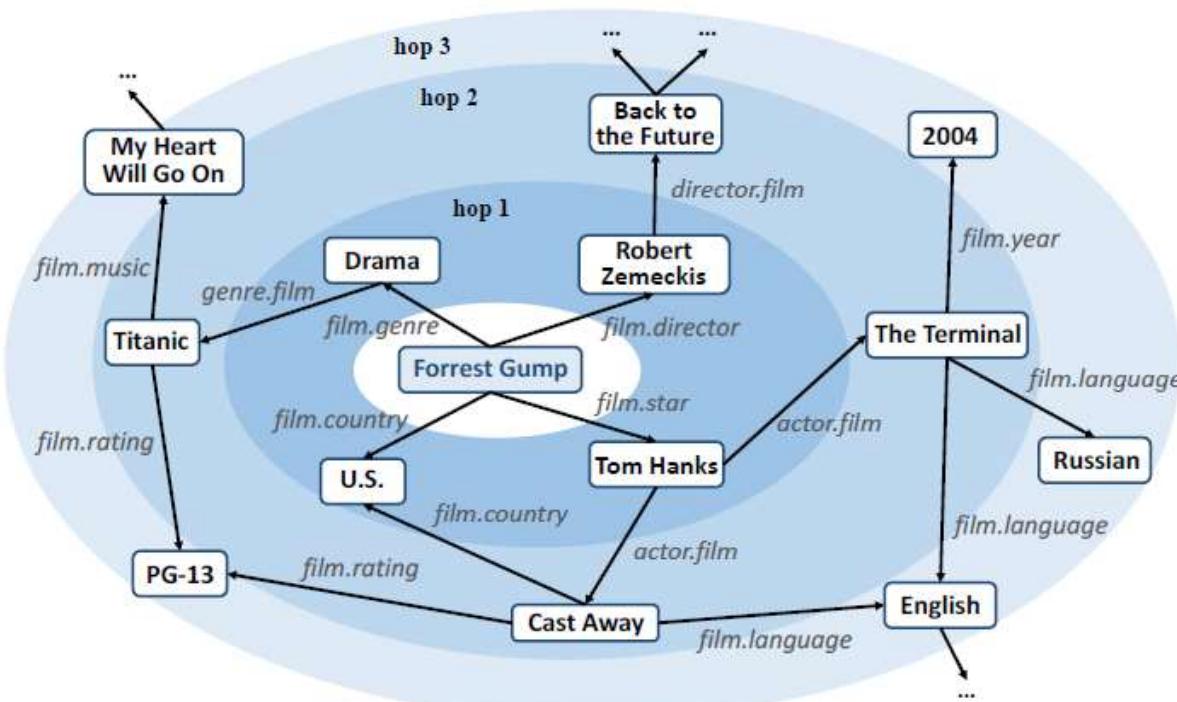
Examples

| | No. | Date | News title | Entities | Label | Category |
|----------|-----|------------|---|---------------------------------|-------|----------|
| training | 1 | 12/25/2016 | Elon Musk teases huge upgrades for Tesla's supercharger network | Elon Musk; Tesla Inc. | 1 | Cars |
| | 2 | 03/25/2017 | Elon Musk offers Tesla Model 3 sneak peek | Elon Musk; Tesla Model 3 | 1 | Cars |
| | 3 | 12/14/2016 | Google fumbles while Tesla sprints toward a driverless future | Google Inc.; Tesla Inc. | 1 | Cars |
| | 4 | 12/15/2016 | Trump pledges aid to Silicon Valley during tech meeting | Donald Trump; Silicon Valley | 1 | Politics |
| | 5 | 03/26/2017 | Donald Trump is a big reason why the GOP kept the Montana House seat | Donald Trump; GOP; Montana | 1 | Politics |
| | 6 | 05/03/2017 | North Korea threat: Kim could use nuclear weapons as "blackmail" | North Korea; Kim Jong-un | 1 | Politics |
| | 7 | 12/22/2016 | Microsoft sells out of unlocked Lumia 950 and Lumia 950 XL in the US | Microsoft; Lumia; United States | 1 | Other |
| | 8 | 12/08/2017 | 6.5 magnitude earthquake recorded off the coast of California | earthquake; California | 1 | Other |
| test | 1 | 07/08/2017 | Tesla makes its first Model 3 | Tesla Inc; Tesla Model 3 | 1 | Cars |
| | 2 | 08/13/2017 | General Motors is ramping up its self-driving car: Ford should be nervous | General Motors; Ford Inc. | 1 | Cars |
| | 3 | 06/21/2017 | Jeh Johnson testifies on Russian interference in 2016 election | Jeh Johnson; Russian | 1 | Politics |
| | 4 | 07/16/2017 | "Game of Thrones" season 7 premiere: how you can watch | Game of Thrones | 0 | Other |

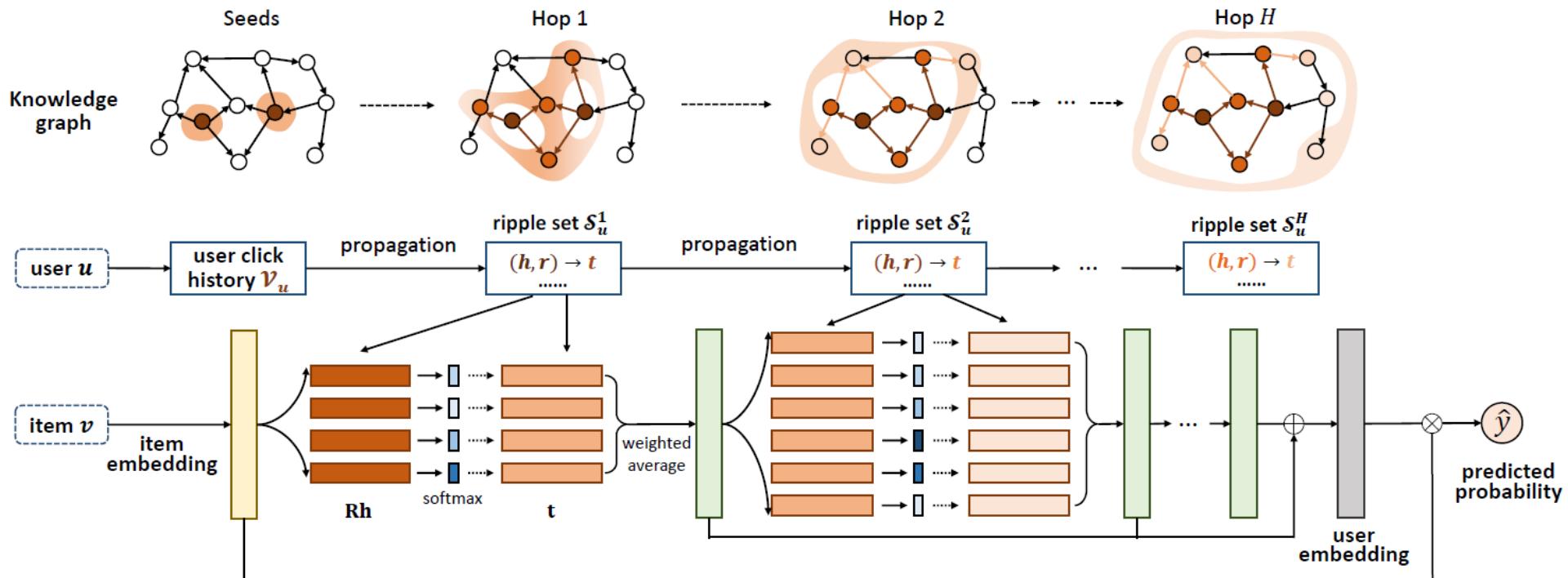


Ripple Network (Joint Training)

- Users interests as seed entity, propagates in the graph step by step
- Decay in the propagating process



Ripple Network

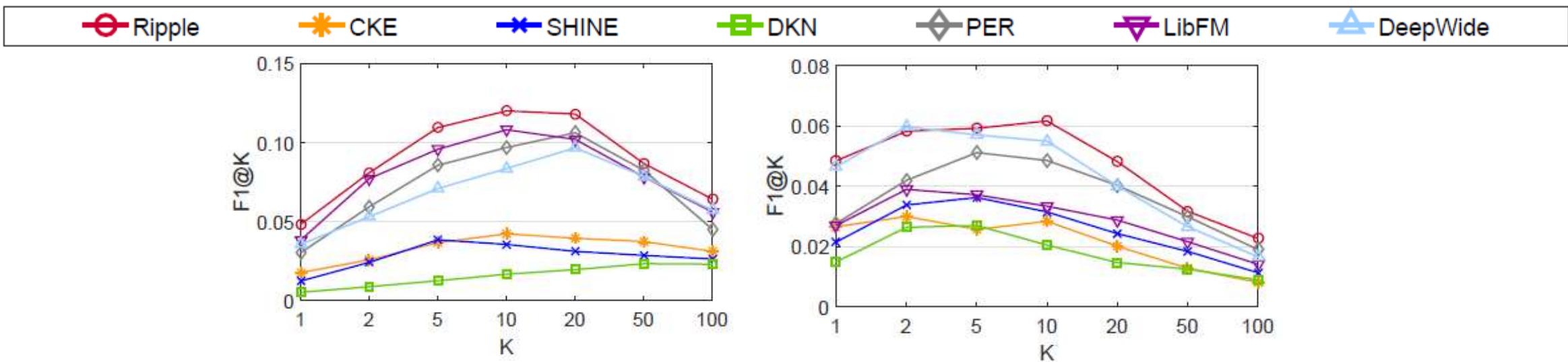


$$\begin{aligned}
 \min \mathcal{L} &= -\log(p(Y|\Theta, \mathcal{G}) \cdot p(\mathcal{G}|\Theta) \cdot p(\Theta)) \\
 &= \sum_{(u, v) \in Y} -\left(y_{uv} \log \sigma(\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{v}) + (1 - y_{uv}) \log (1 - \sigma(\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{v}))\right) \\
 &\quad + \frac{\lambda_2}{2} \sum_{r \in \mathcal{R}} \|\mathbf{I}_r - \mathbf{E}^T \mathbf{R} \mathbf{E}\|_2^2 + \frac{\lambda_1}{2} \left(\|\mathbf{V}\|_2^2 + \|\mathbf{E}\|_2^2 + \sum_{r \in \mathcal{R}} \|\mathbf{R}\|_2^2\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

Experiments

| Model | MovieLens-1M | | Book-Crossing | | Bing-News | |
|----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | AUC | ACC | AUC | ACC | AUC | ACC |
| Ripple* | 0.913 | 0.835 | 0.840 | 0.775 | 0.778 | 0.732 |
| CKE | 0.796 | 0.739 | 0.634 | 0.606 | 0.660 | 0.617 |
| SHINE | 0.778 | 0.732 | 0.668 | 0.636 | 0.614 | 0.587 |
| DKN | 0.655 | 0.589 | 0.621 | 0.598 | 0.761 | 0.704 |
| PER | 0.901 | 0.826 | 0.814 | 0.735 | - | - |
| LibFM | 0.892 | 0.812 | 0.763 | 0.705 | 0.744 | 0.688 |
| DeepWide | 0.903 | 0.822 | 0.806 | 0.731 | 0.754 | 0.695 |

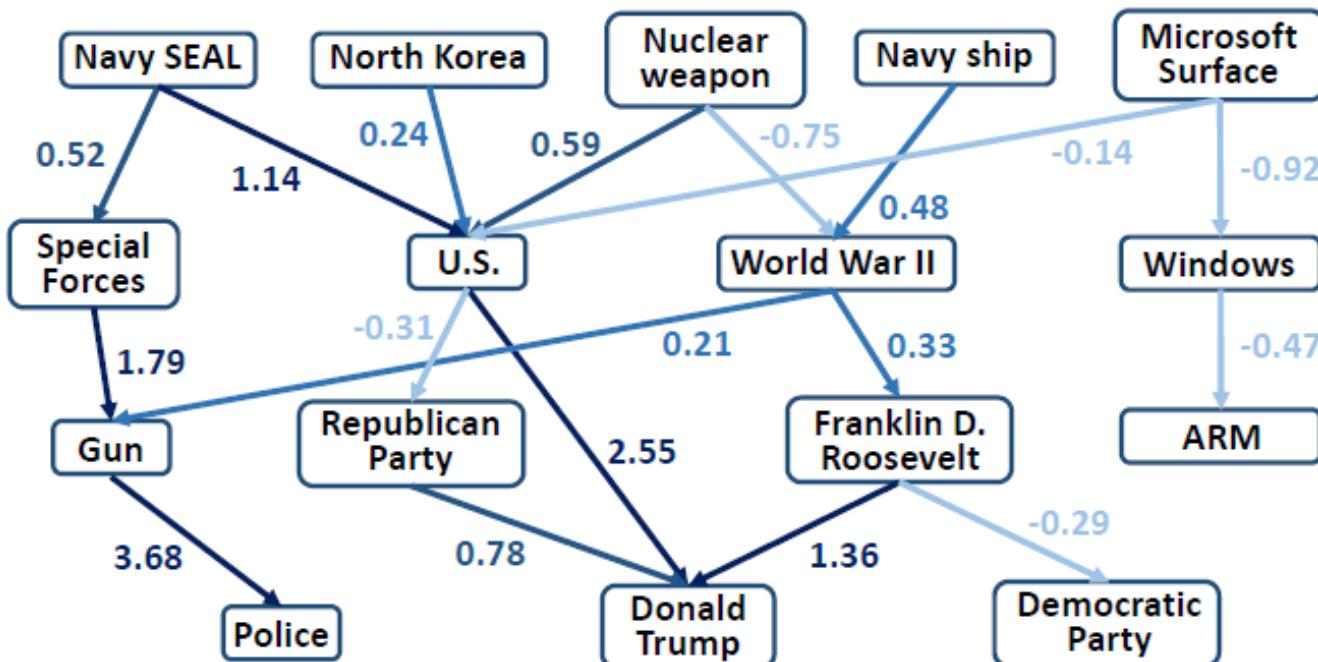
* Statistically significant improvements by *t*-test.



Example

Click history:

1. Family of **Navy SEAL** Trainee Who Died During Pool Exercise Plans to Take Legal Action
2. **North Korea** Vows to Strengthen **Nuclear Weapons**
3. **North Korea** Threatens 'Toughest Counteraction' After **U.S.** Moves **Navy Ships**
4. Consumer Reports Pulls Recommendation for **Microsoft Surface** Laptops



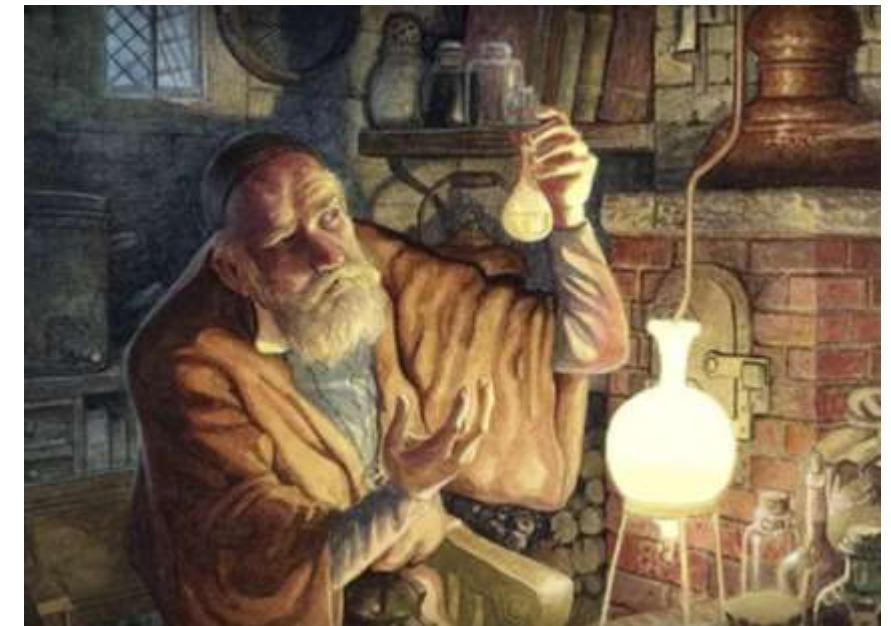
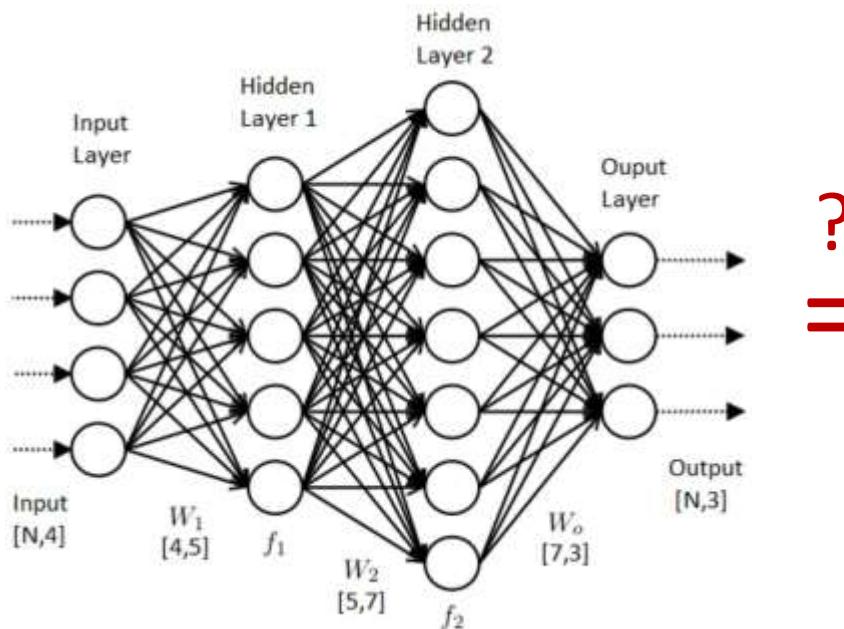
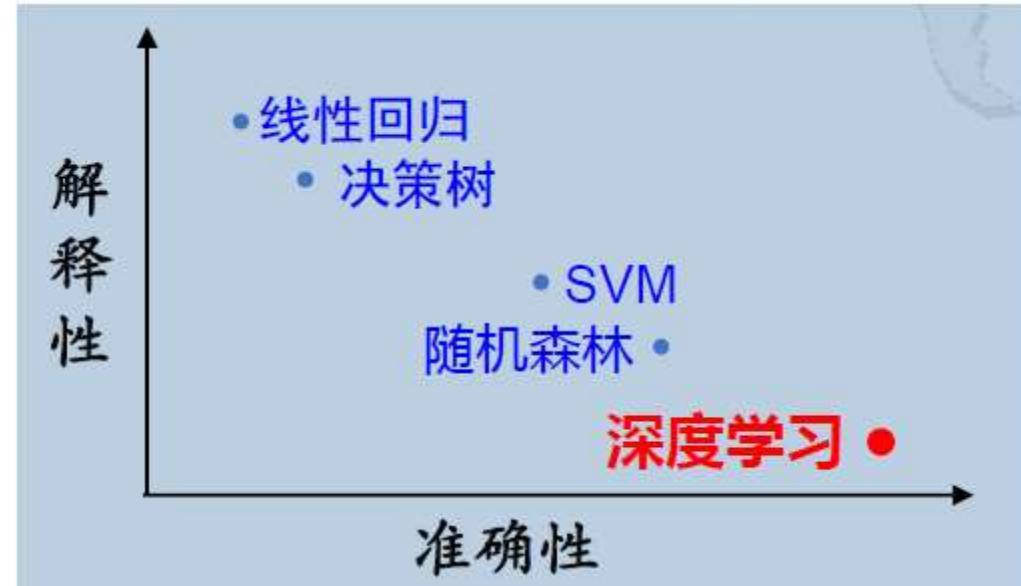
Candidate news: **Trump** Announces Gunman Dead, Credits 'Heroic Actions' of **Police**

可解释推荐

Explainable AI

Attention from

- Government
- Industry
- Academia

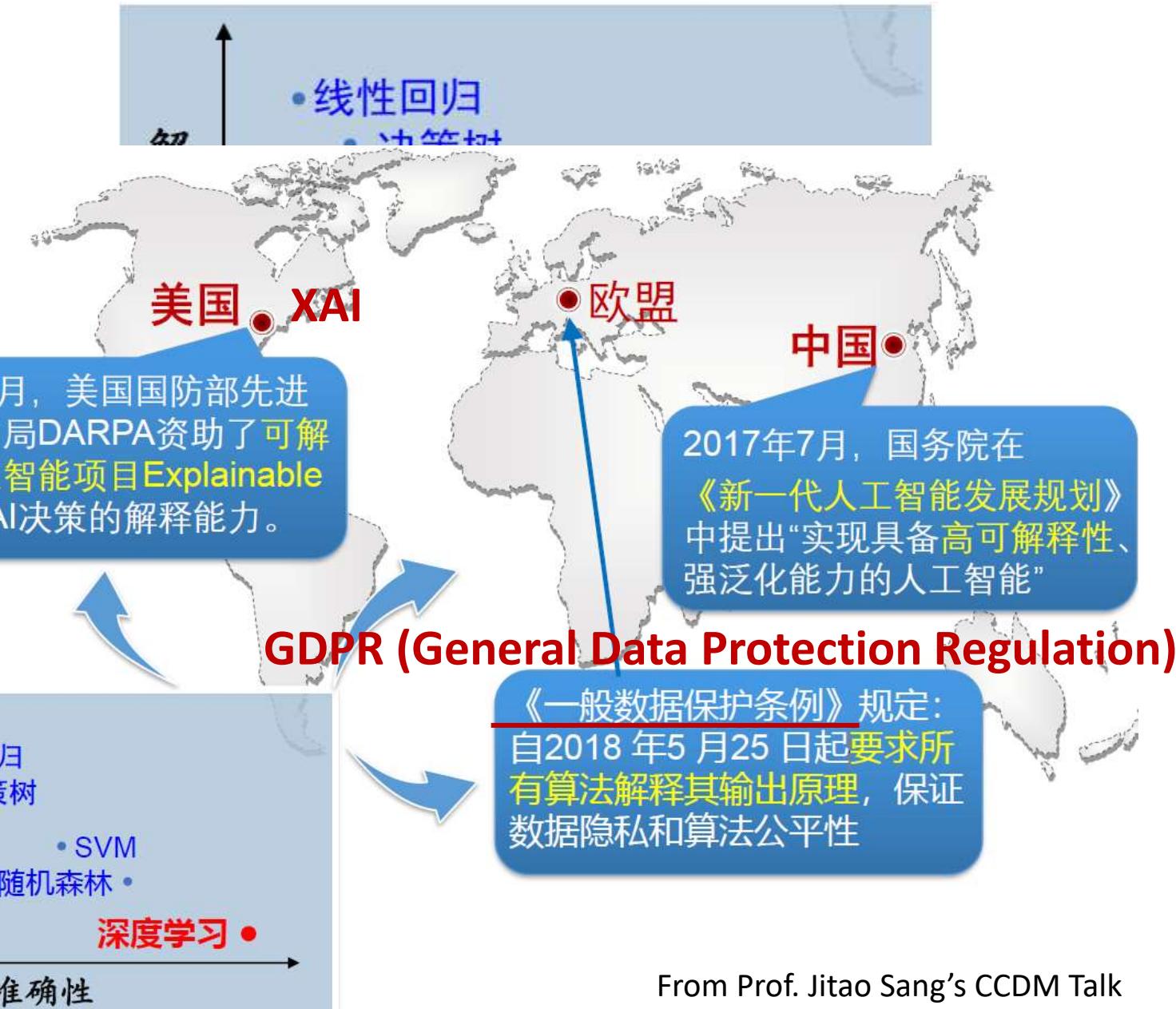


Explainable AI

Attention from

- Government
- Industry
- Academia

• 线性回归
• 决策树

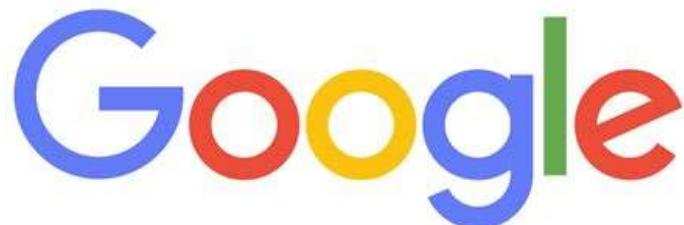


From Prof. Jitao Sang's CCDM Talk

Explainable AI

Attention from

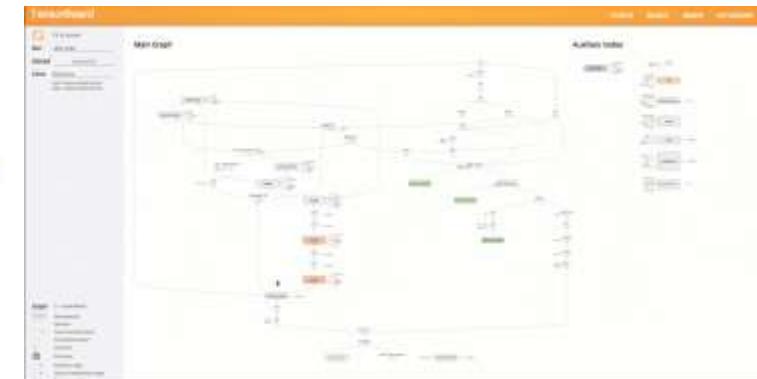
- Government
- **Industry**
- Academia



Invests 1,600 engineers to support GDPR compliance

Moves more than 1.5 billion users out of reach of European privacy law

TensorBoard: Graph Visualization



Explainable AI

Attention from

- Government
- Industry
- Academia

ICML 2017 Awards

Best Paper Award

Understanding Black-box Predictions via Influence Functions

Pang Wei Koh, Percy Liang

NIPS | 2017 Best paper awards:

A Linear-Time Kernel Goodness-of-Fit Test.

- Wittawat Jitkrittum, Wenkai Xu, Zoltan Szabo, Kenji Fukumizu, Arthur Gretton.

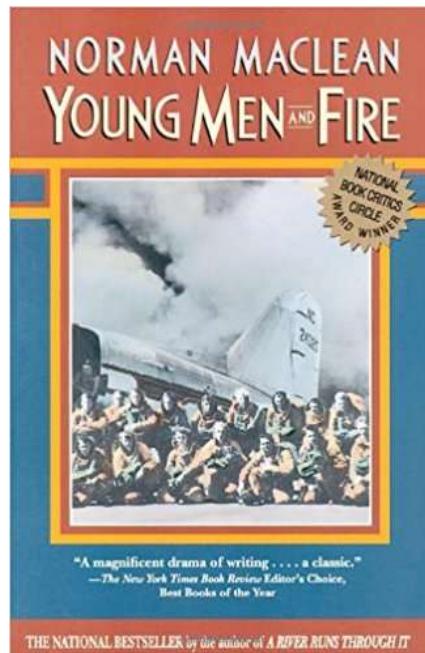
Sam Charrington from TWiML&AI, the authors of the NIPS 2017 best paper said at 14:10 in the following video
that "... explainability was one of the reasons that the paper was given the award ..."



11 accepted papers mentioned
interpretation/explanation in the title

Traditional vs. Explainable Recommendation

- Traditional recommendation
 - What, Who, When, Where

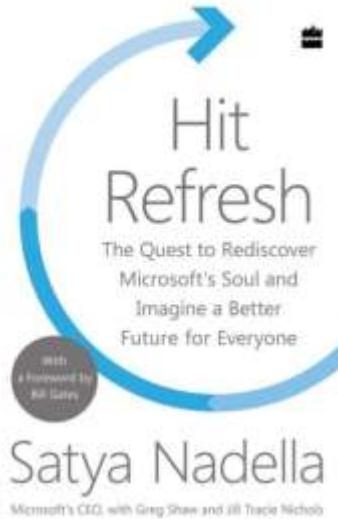


Connect the item with the user: persuasiveness, trust, satisfaction

- Explainable recommendation
 - Why



It impacts how Satya thinks about leadership



It may help **you** better understand some major decisions of Satya

Explainable Recommendation for Ads



1-800-FLOWERS.COM® - Elegant Flowers for Any Occasion.

Ad · **1800Flowers.com** · 40,100+ followers on Twitter

Ratings: Product Selection 4.5/5 - Price 4/5 - Customer Service 4/5

Elegant **Flowers** for Any Occasion. 100% Smile Guarantee!

1800flowers.com has been visited by 10K+ users in the past month

1800flowers.com is rated ★★★★☆ (321,968 reviews)

"Quick and fast - good choice of flowers!" - from consumer review

Anniversary Flowers.

Perfect Anniversary Flowers & Gifts
Special Moments with Your Loved One

Best Selling Flowers.

Our Most Popular Flower Bouquets
Great Gifts for any Event!

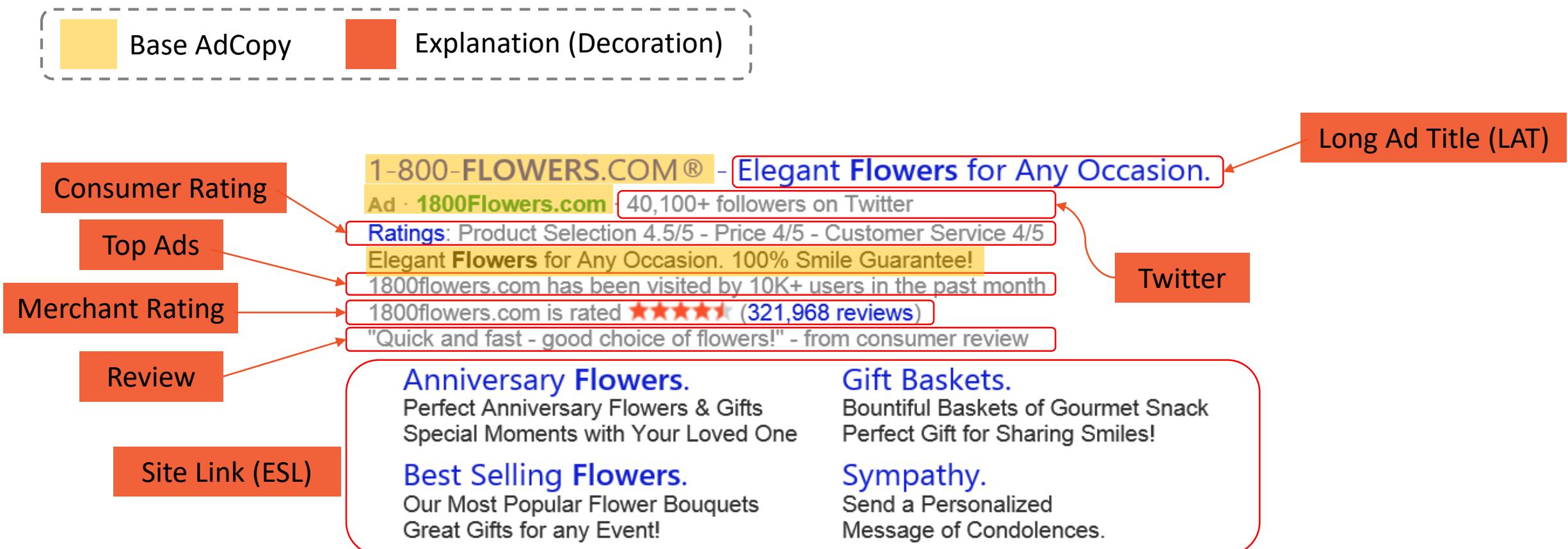
Gift Baskets.

Bountiful Baskets of Gourmet Snack
Perfect Gift for Sharing Smiles!

Sympathy.

Send a Personalized
Message of Condolences.

Explainable Recommendation for Ads



Application Scenarios In Ads

Search Ads

[1-800-FLOWERS.COM® - Elegant Flowers for Any Occasion.](#)

Ad · [1800Flowers.com](#) · 40,100+ followers on Twitter

Ratings: Product Selection 4.5/5 - Price 4/5 - Customer Service 4/5

Elegant Flowers for Any Occasion. 100% Smile Guarantee!

1800flowers.com has been visited by 10K+ users in the past month

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"Quick and fast - good choice of flowers!" - from consumer review

Anniversary Flowers.

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Best Selling Flowers.

Our Most Popular Flower Bouquets
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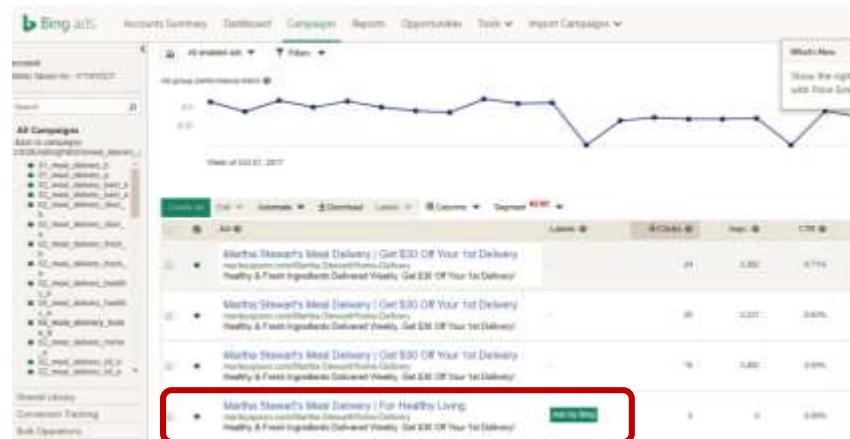
Gift Baskets.

Bountiful Baskets of Gourmet Snack
Perfect Gift for Sharing Smiles!

Sympathy.

Send a Personalized
Message of Condolences.

Bing Ads Platform



Native Ads on MSN

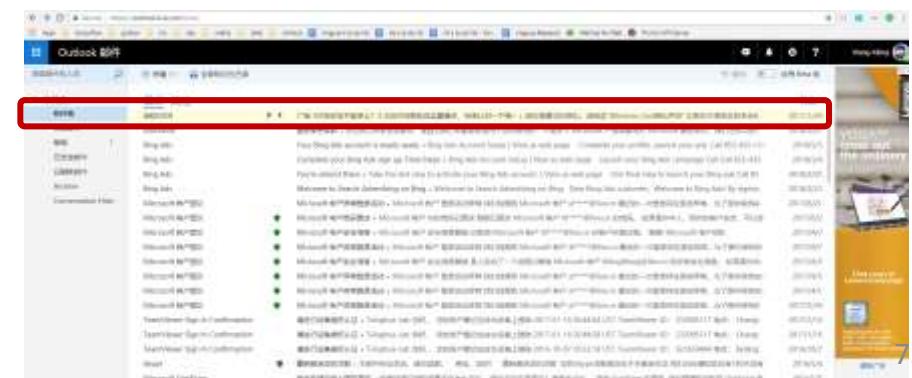


24 of the Coolest Set Photos
in Movie History

Sponsored

Esquire

Native Ads on outlook.com



Outline

- Definition and goals
- Forms of explanations
- Explainable recommendation pipelines

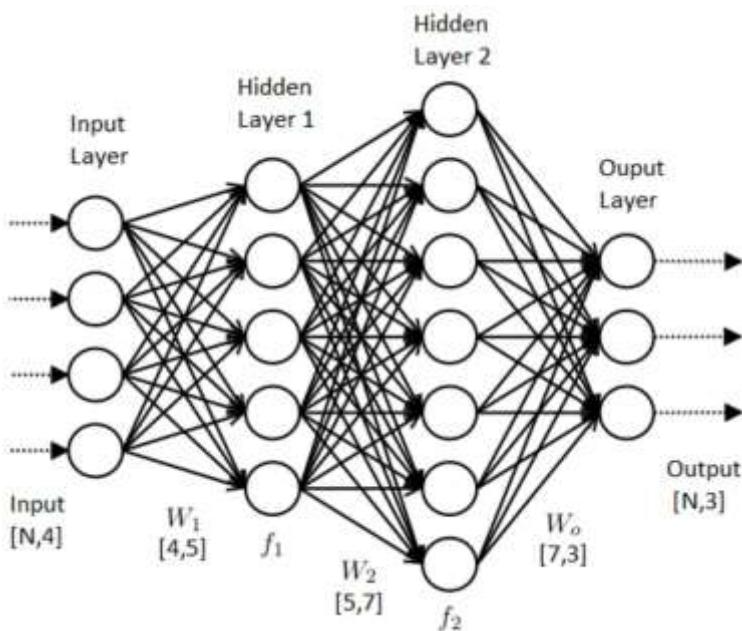
Outline

- **Definition and goals**
- Forms of explanations
- Explainable recommendation pipelines

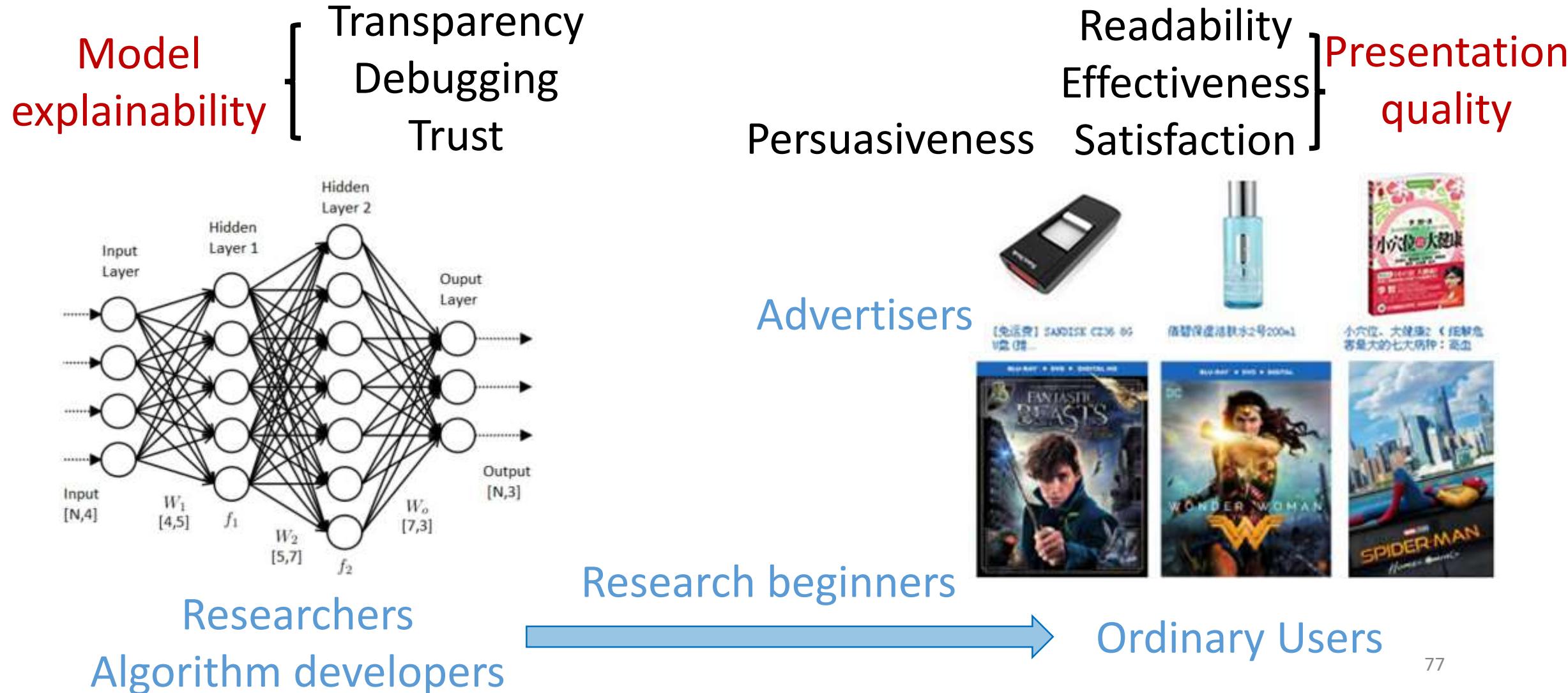
Goals of Explainable AI

Model
explainability

- { Transparency ————— Open/gray black boxes
 - Debugging ————— Debug failed models
 - Trust ————— Understand why some models work
- Important for high-stakes applications such as healthcare and finance



Goals of Explainable Recommendation



Goals of Explainable Recommendation



- Understanding their relationships
 - Correlated
 - Trade-off

Relationships between the Goals: Correlated

Model
explainability

Evaluation results on 82 users

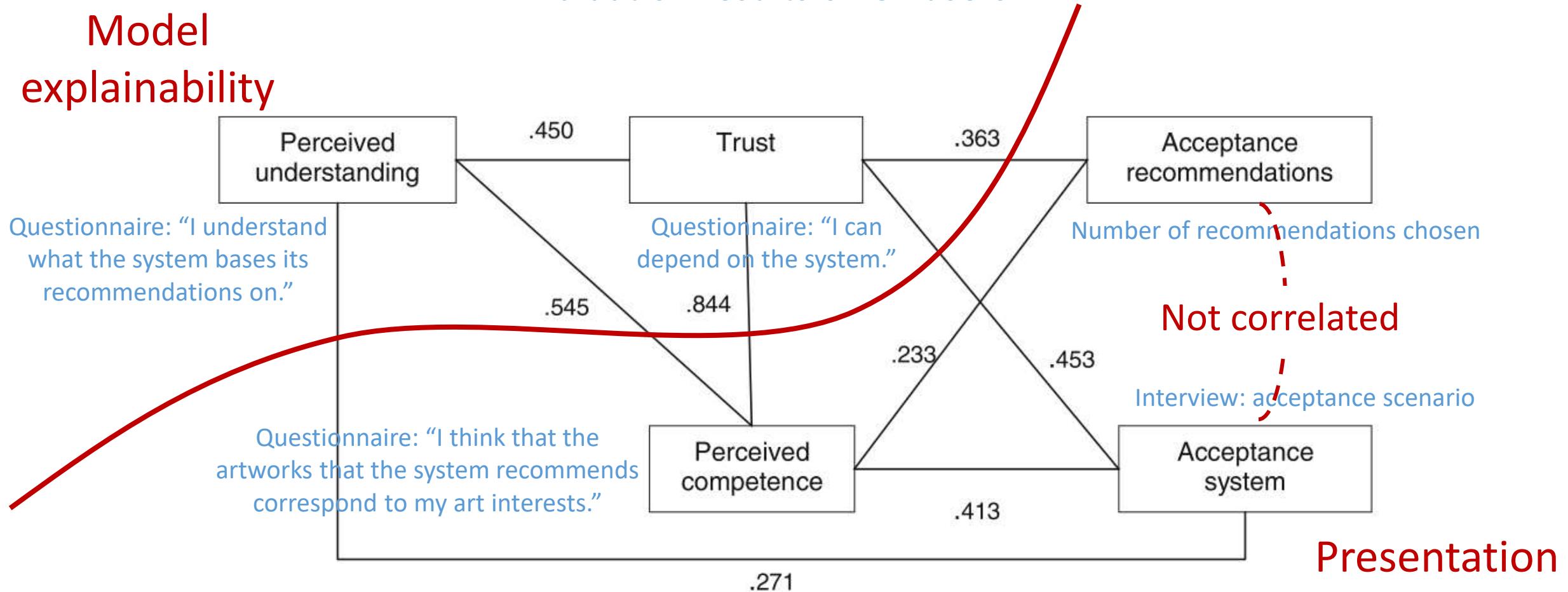


Fig. 5 Main significant correlations, Spearman's rho, $p(1 - \text{tailed}) < .05$

Relationships between the Goals: Trade-Off

| Model explainability | Aim | Definition |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Trade-off | Transparency (Tra.) | Explain how the system works |
| Presentation quality | Scrutability (Scr.) | Allow users to tell the system it is wrong |
| Trade-off | Trust | Increase users' confidence in the system |
| Trade-off | Effectiveness (Efk.) | Help users make good decisions |
| Trade-off | Persuasiveness (Pers.) | Convince users to try or buy |
| | Efficiency (Efc.) | Help users make decisions faster |
| | Satisfaction (Sat.) | Increase the ease of usability or enjoyment |

Goals of Explainable Recommendation



- Understanding their relationships
 - Correlated
 - Trade-off

Goals of Explainable Recommendation



- Understanding their relationships
 - Correlated
 - Trade-off
- Most existing methods consider both criteria
 - Model explainability: 9 out of 10 papers
 - Presentation quality: all papers

Definition of Explainable Recommendation

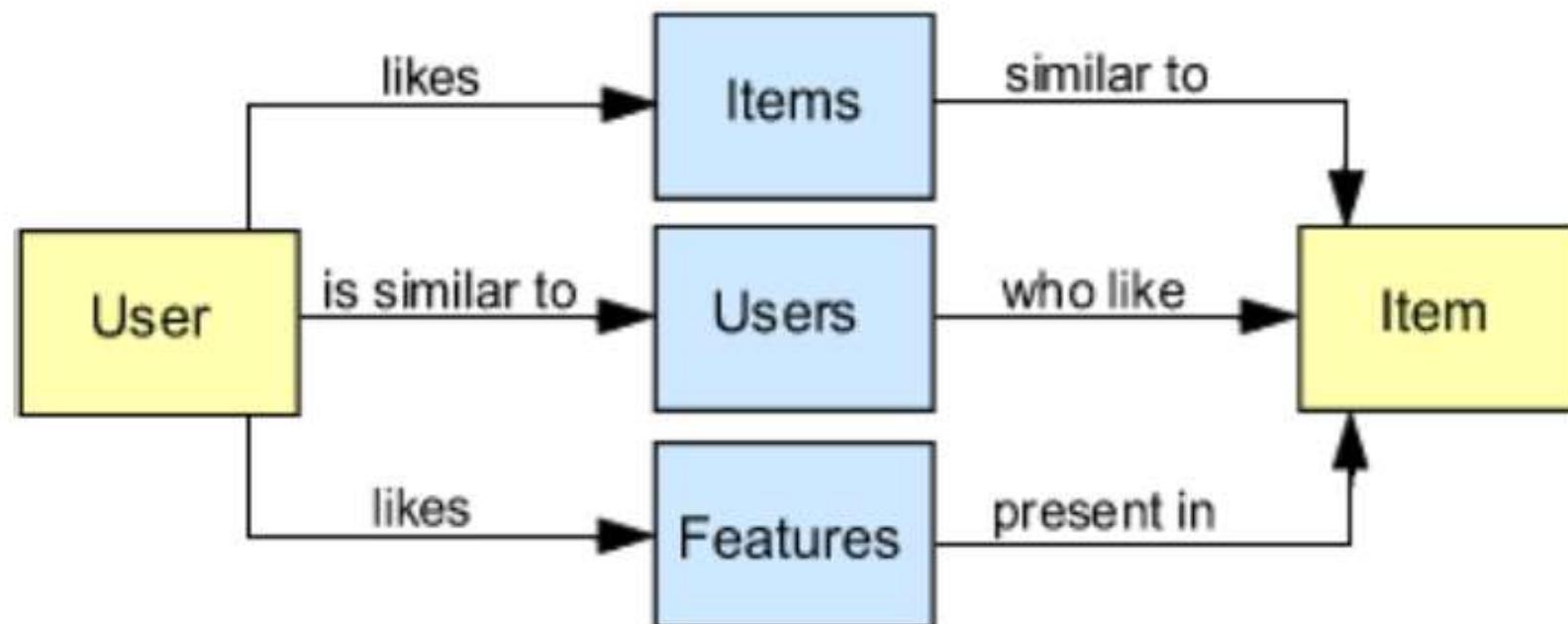
- In general, give statements that support the recommendations [WWW2013]
- Application specific
 - [Model-explainability] help users understand the system behavior [CHI2012]
 - [Presentation quality-Effectiveness] help users make more accurate decisions [IUI2015]
 - [Presentation quality-Persuasiveness] convincing users to adopt recommendations [IUI2015, IUI2009]

Outline

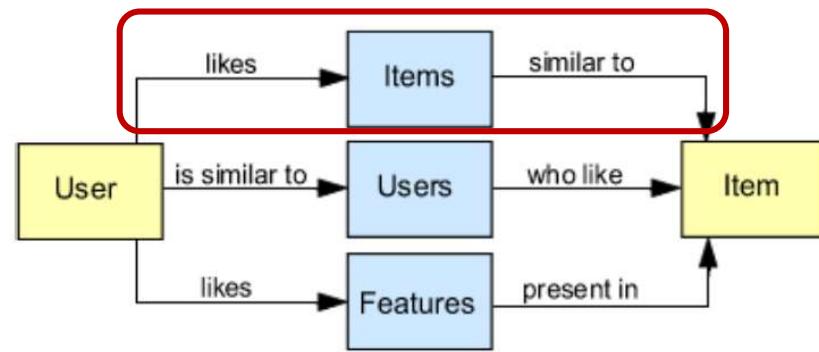
- Definition and goals
- **Forms of explanations**
- Explainable recommendation pipelines

Forms of Explanations

- Three basic forms



Item-Based Explanations



- “You may like the item because it is similar to items you previously like”

Related to items you've viewed [See more](#)



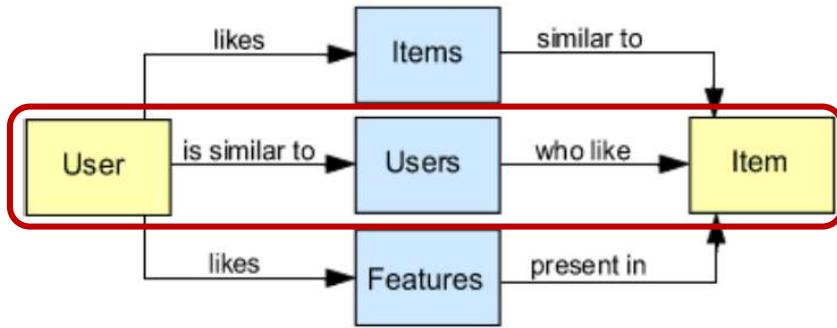
Amazon



| BOOK | YOUR RATING Out of 5 | INFLUENCE Out of 100 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Of Mice and Men | 4 | 54 |
| 1984 | 4 | 50 |
| Till We Have Faces : A Myth Retold | 5 | 50 |
| Crime and Punishment | 4 | 46 |
| The Gambler | 5 | 11 |

[IUI2005]

User-Based Explanations



- “You may like the item because a user similar to you like this item”

People You May Know

- Subaru Sakakibara (神原昂)
The University of Tokyo / UTokyo
Zhan Cheng is a mutual friend.
- Devin Shen
University of Ottawa - L'Université d'Ottawa
Zhan Cheng is a mutual friend.
- Drew Hong
USTC
Zhan Cheng is a mutual friend.
- Qixia Zhou
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)
Zhan Cheng is a mutual friend.
- Princess Lahya
Zhan Cheng is a mutual friend.

Add Friend Remove

Facebook

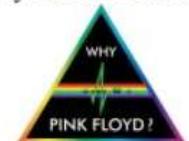
2,612,211 of Facebook users like this.



Lily Allen

(a) Overall Popularity

7 of your friends like this.



Pink Floyd

(b) Friend Popularity

Amit Sharma likes this.



A.R. Rahman

Amit Sharma and 5 of your friends like this.



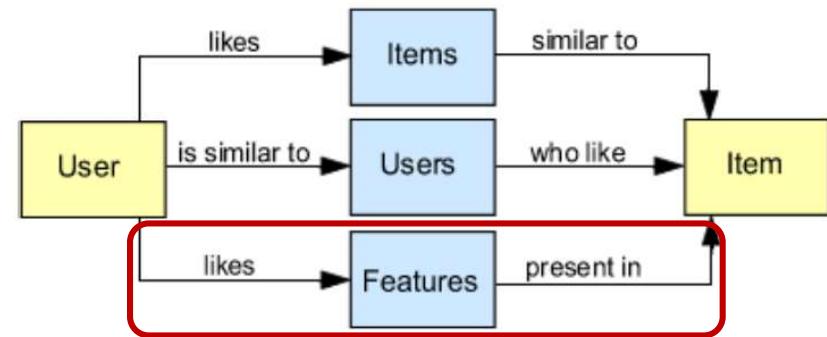
Vampire Weekend

(c) Good/Random Friend

(d) Good Friend & Count

[WWW2013]

Feature-Based Explanations



- “You may like the item because this item contains features you like”

| Slot | Word | Count | Strength | Explain |
|-------------|-----------|-------|----------|-------------------------|
| DESCRIPTION | HEART | 2 | 94.14 | Explain |
| DESCRIPTION | BEAUTIFUL | 1 | 17.07 | Explain |
| DESCRIPTION | MOTHER | 3 | 11.55 | Explain |
| DESCRIPTION | READ | 14 | 10.63 | Explain |
| DESCRIPTION | STORY | 16 | 9.12 | Explain |

[IUI2005]

| # | Target Item | Historical Records | Textual Review | Visual Explanation | |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | VECF | Re-VECF |
| 1 |  |   | this is a large watch... nearly as large as my suunto but due to <i>its articulated strap it fits on the wrist very well.</i> |  |  |
| 2 |  |   | <i>this is a really comfortable v-neck. i found that the size and location of the v are just right for me. i'm 5'8 & #34, but 200 lbs (and dropping :))</i> |  |  |
| 3 |  |   | <i>Great leggings. perfect for fly fishing or hunting or running. just perfect anytime you are cold!</i> |  |  |

[Arxiv2018]



[SIGIR2014]

Dialog-Based Explanations



Microsoft Xiaoice (小冰)

1. Pick a model (Absolute/Pairwise) (Sec. 4.2) and preference elicitation mechanism: **Abs** (Sec. 4.3) / **Abs Pos** / **Abs Pos & Neg** / **Pairwise** (Sec. 4.4).
2. Initialize model parameters using offline data.
3. A new user arrives. Now iterate for a few questions³:
 - (a) Mechanism selects a question to ask
 - (b) User answers the question
 - (c) All model parameters are updated
 - (d) Remove the question from the allowed questions
4. System presents the final recommended list

[KDD2016]

Structured Overview Explanations

| Flamenco | |
|---|---|
| Refine your search further within these categories: | These terms define your current search. Click the to remove a term. |
| Media (group results) costume (3), drawing (2), lithograph (1), woodcut (6), woven object (2) | Location: Asia Shapes, Colors, and Materials: fabrics |
| Location: all > Asia Afghanistan (1), China (4), China or Tibet? (3), India (2), Japan (13), Russia (1), Turkey (3), Turkmenistan (1) | start a new search |
| Date (group results) 17th century (3), 18th century (3), 19th century (10), 20th century (3), date ranges spanning multiple centuries (7), date unknown (2) | <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> all items <input type="radio"/> within current results 28 items (grouped by location) view ungrouped items |
| Themes (group results) music, writing, and sport (5), nautical (1), religion (2) | Afghanistan Girl's Ceremony... <small>no artist</small> 20th century |
| Objects (group results) clothing (5), food (1), furnishings (4), timepieces (1) | China 4 boats on lake,... Anonymous post World War II |
| Nature (group results) bodies of water (3), fish (1), flowers (2), geological formations (1), heavens (3), invertebrates and arthropods (1), mammals (2), plant material (3), trees (1) | Embroidery <small>no artist</small> 19th century |
| Places and Spaces (group results) bridges (1), buildings (1), dwellings (1) | Embroidery <small>no artist</small> 19th century |

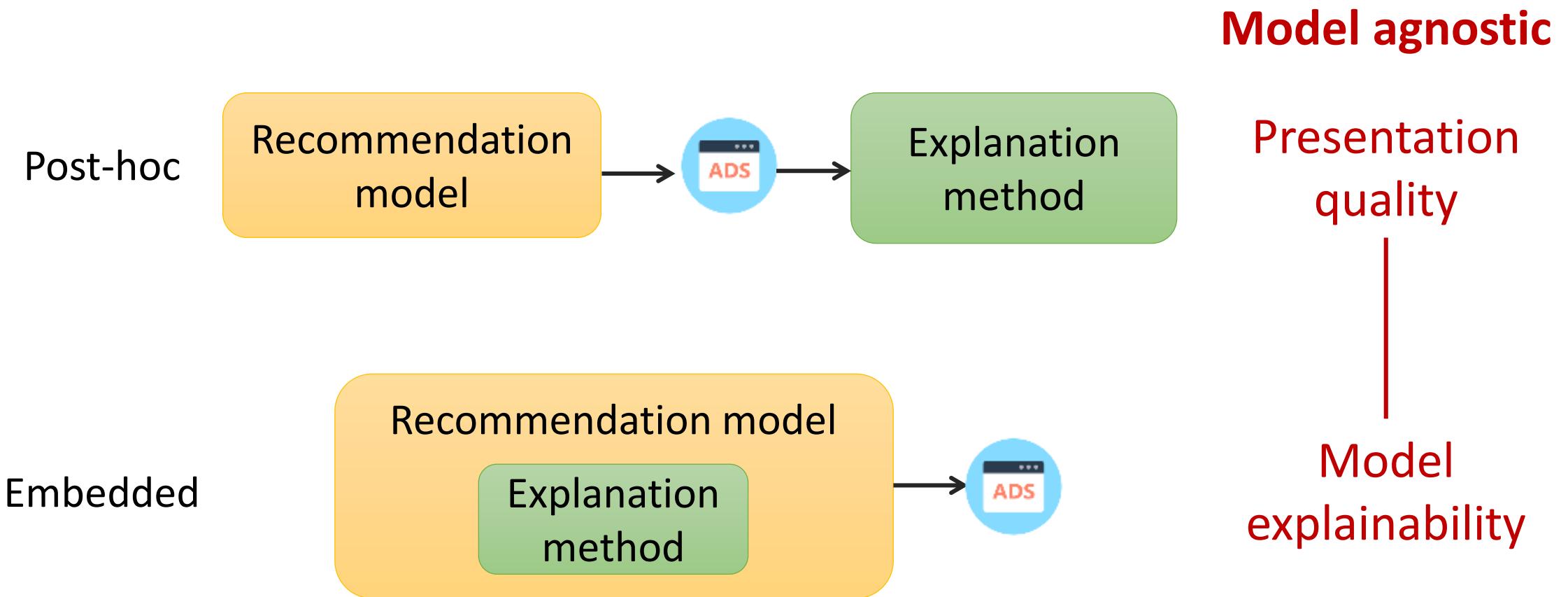
NewsMap

[CHI2003]

Outline

- Definition and goals
- Forms of explanations
- **Explainable recommendation pipelines**

Existing Pipelines



Post-Hoc Methods

- Rule-based

2,612,211 of Facebook users like this.



Lily Allen

(a) Overall Popularity

[Amit Sharma](#) likes this.



A.R. Rahman

(c) Good/Random Friend

7 of your friends like this.



Pink Floyd

(b) Friend Popularity

[Amit Sharma](#) and 5 of your friends like this.



Vampire Weekend

(d) Good Friend & Count



Fraction of likelihood ratings above 5 (neutral rating) for each explanation strategy.

| Explanation | Fraction > 5 |
|--------------------|--------------|
| <i>FriendPop</i> | 0.137 |
| <i>RandFriend</i> | 0.141 |
| <i>OverallPop</i> | 0.175 |
| <i>GoodFriend</i> | 0.200 |
| <i>GoodFrCount</i> | 0.239 |

Friend with maximum tie strength:
maximum number of interactions
(likes, comments, wall posts)

Post-Hoc Methods



- Rule-based
- Retrieval-based

Scenario: book recommendation

Feature-based recommendation

| Slot | Word | Count | Strength | Explain |
|-------------|-----------|-------|----------|-------------------------|
| DESCRIPTION | HEART | 2 | 94.14 | Explain |
| DESCRIPTION | BEAUTIFUL | 1 | 17.07 | Explain |
| DESCRIPTION | MOTHER | 3 | 11.55 | Explain |
| DESCRIPTION | READ | 14 | 10.63 | Explain |
| DESCRIPTION | STORY | 16 | 9.12 | Explain |

Ranking score: $c * strength(t)$

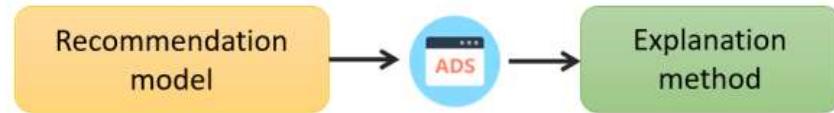
$$strength(t) = \frac{P(t|c_l, s)}{P(t|c_d, s)}$$

c : number of times t appears

c_l : the category of likes

c_d : the category of dislikes

Post-Hoc Methods



- Rule-based
- Retrieval-based

Scenario: book recommendation

Item-based recommendation

| BOOK | YOUR RATING Out of 5 | INFLUENCE Out of 100 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Of Mice and Men | 4 | 54 |
| 1984 | 4 | 50 |
| Till We Have Faces : A Myth Retold | 5 | 50 |
| Crime and Punishment | 4 | 46 |
| The Gambler | 5 | 11 |

Influence score of item j on i :
 $p(i|u, S^+, S^-) - p(i|u, S^+ \setminus j, S^-)$

Similarity score between item j and i :
 $Pearson(i, j)$

Post-Hoc Methods

- Rule-based
- Retrieval-based
- Generative



Scenario: explanation generation for
music recommendation





Data Preparation

- 163 music data
 - Song + Singer + Album + Lyric + Music tags + Comments
 - User tags
 - Xiaolce tag
 - Weibo tag



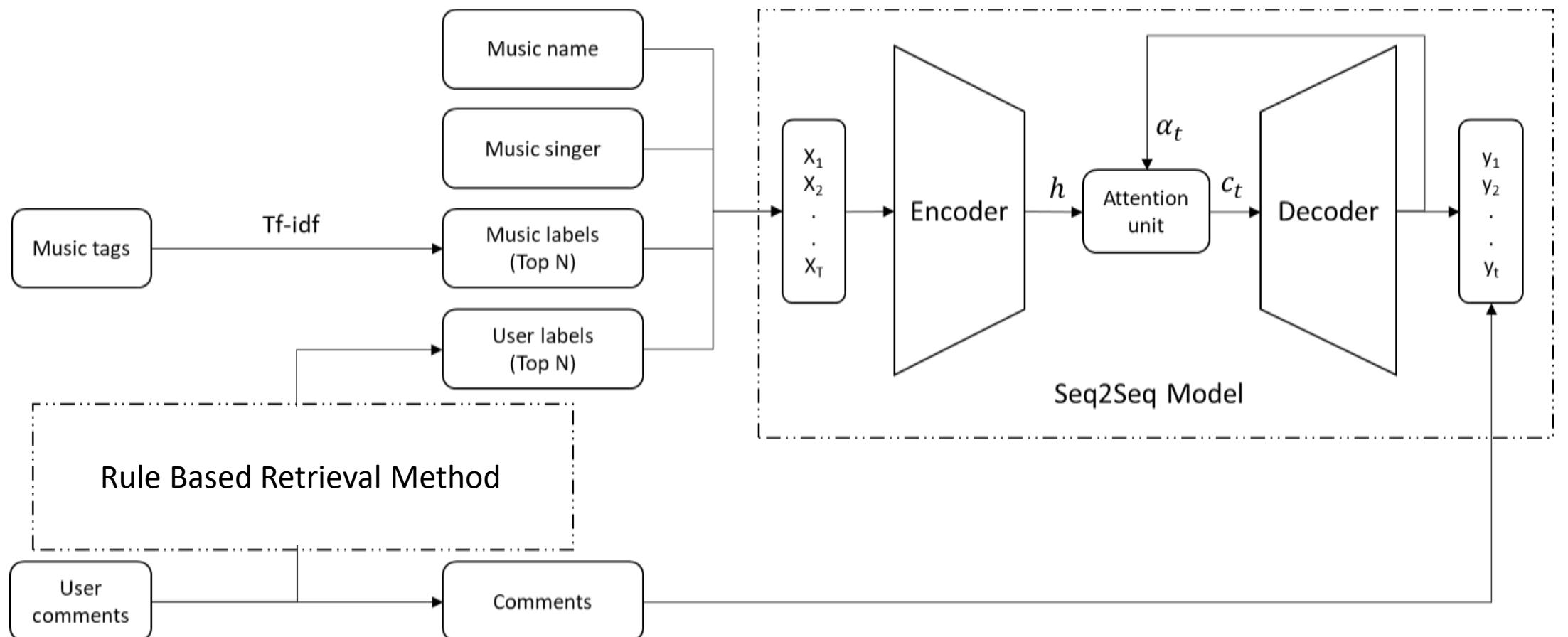


Requirements

- User Profile Related Reasons
 - Age and Gender
 - User tags
- Song Related Reasons
 - Lyric



Our Framework





Examples-User Profiles Related

• 民谣大学时光校园时光光阴摇滚朴树我爱你再见

• 学生

- 以前学校每天中午都会放这首歌
- 校园十佳歌手，我就听了这首歌。[可爱]

• 电音

- 这首歌真是越听越带感
- 每次听到这首歌都会热血沸腾

• 民谣

- 每次听这首歌都会有一种很安静的感觉
- 很喜欢这首歌，很喜欢民谣

• 失恋

- 今天分手了，听到这首歌，心都碎了下来
- 我失恋了，听着这首歌，感觉自己也是醉了

• 晚睡

- 每天晚上睡觉前听这首歌，越听越有感觉，越听越有感觉，
- 这首歌是我最喜欢的一首歌，晚安

• Music Tags

• Singer

• Song Name

• User Profiles



Examples-Song Related

- 正面指南无非自拍拍拍有趣欢笑悲哀姿态女孩李荣浩自拍
 - 李荣浩八个专辑里的歌最喜欢的就是这首了
 - 昨天今天真的好喜欢这首歌好想听现场版啊[亲亲][亲亲][亲亲]
 - 听李荣浩的歌不会分享给朋友们[可爱][可爱]
 - 看到李荣浩的歌啊[可爱][可爱][可爱][可爱]人我爱你一辈子~
 - 李荣浩还行！这首歌真的有味道？？？？？
- 迷迭香甜味喜好发酵味道性感无可救药讯号飘扬优雅周杰伦迷迭香
 - 这首歌千万千万别火呀[发怒][发怒][发怒][发怒][发怒]
 - 我的阿珍什么时候来听这首歌
 - 这首歌好骚，喜欢[色]
 - 所以这首歌是我伦唱的最正常的[大哭]
 - 周杰伦慵懒的嗓音能驾驭这首歌
- 火星人地球猿人起火难过心脏小孩空袭话音舍利薛之谦火星人来过
 - 薛之谦唱的这首歌啊啊啊啊啊啊啊啊啊啊啊啊啊啊啊啊啊啊啊
 - 这首歌是越听越好听
 - 因为薛之谦，我喜欢上了薛之谦的歌
 - 薛，我喜欢你，希望你的歌能给我带来好运[爱心]
 - 这首歌简直不要太酷，太喜欢这首了[色]



Evaluation on User Profiles

Music: 朴树 我爱你再见

User profile: 失恋

Music tags: 民谣大学时光校园时光光阴摇滚

| Generated Reasons | Fluency | Personalization | Relevance | Overall |
|---------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------|---------|
| 每次听这首歌都会想到初恋 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 这首歌是我初恋最喜欢的歌 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 今天分手了，听到这首歌，心都碎了下来 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 初恋女友最喜欢的歌 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 失恋了，听着这首歌，感觉自己也是醉了 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| 单身狗听这首歌真的是真的好吗 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| 分手后，听着这首歌，感觉自己也是醉了 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 我失恋了，听着这首歌，感觉自己也是醉了 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 单身狗听这首歌真的是真的好吗 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| 听了这首歌，我就知道我失恋了 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

1: Bad

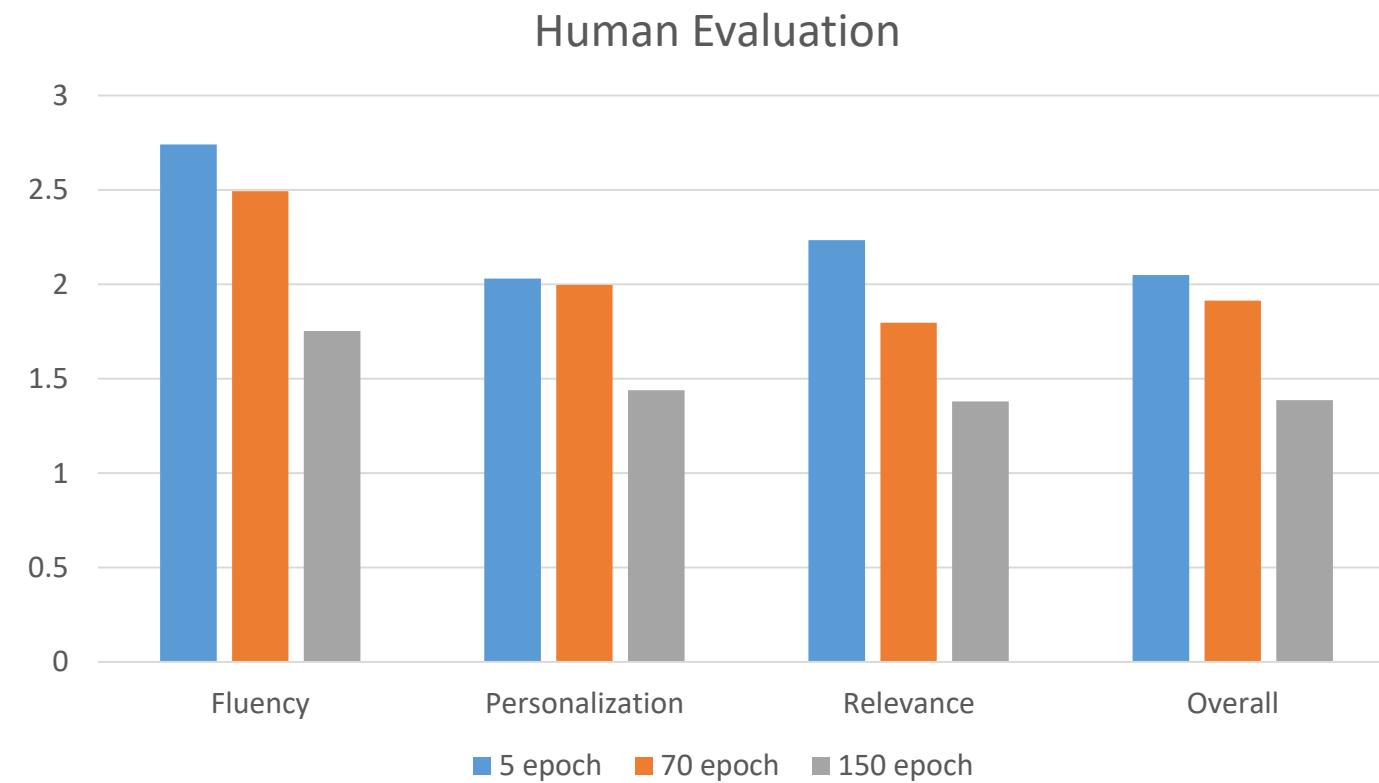
2: Medium

3: Good



Evaluation on User Profiles

- 5 songs
- 20 user profiles
- 300 reasons





Impact of Epoch

Music: 李宇春 下个路口见

User profile: 学生

Music tags: 国语回忆校园时光记忆怀念

| 5 epochs <i>(General)</i> | 70 epochs <i>(Border)</i> | 150 epochs <i>(Specific)</i> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 我们学校每天中午都放这首歌 | 学校每天都放这首歌 | 每次听这首歌，都想哭。 <u>那年的同学，你的未来</u> ，不知我 |
| 学校每天中午都放这首歌 | 刚刚学校广播站放的就是这首歌 | 刚刚听这首歌，在学校广播听到，爱上了这首歌 |
| 以前学校每天中午都会放这首歌 | 唉，学校每天都放这首歌，每次听到都好想哭，说好的 | 学校每天都是这首歌 |
| 记得以前学校每天中午都会放这首歌 | 今天学校广播站放了这首歌，好想回家路上 | 中学时代喜欢 <u>陈奕迅</u> 的歌，我知道你明天会来，这也是音乐老师的 |
| 今天学校放了这首歌，我就知道这首歌了 | 听着这首歌，想着你，想着你，想着你，想着你 | 坐在 <u>公交</u> 上，学校放的这首歌，当时没感觉，眼神中看着我 |
| 这首歌是我们学校每天中午放学的铃声 | 在学校的广播听到这首歌，感觉自己像 <u>赵小雷</u> [吐舌][吐舌] | 很多年前在学校听过的男生唱的最好的歌 |
| 当时学校广播放了这首歌，当时就觉得好听 | 每次听到这首歌都会想到以前校园生活的味道~ | 听着这首歌，想回到校园时代 |
| 我同学说这首歌是我最喜欢的一首歌，每次听都会觉得很 | 这首歌是我的上课铃声[奸笑] | 在听这首歌是因为是因为学校生活开始 <u>认识你</u> ，记得还记得那一天 |
| 曾经在学校的广播里听到这首歌，当时觉得好幸福 | 校园广播听到了这首歌，很好听 | 刚听到这首歌，在学校广播里听到，才反应过来是这首歌...忘 |
| 当年学校放这首歌，当时觉得好幸福 | <u>同桌的你</u> ，听这首歌让我想哭 | 唉，听着这首歌写着曾经的我们曾经学校的 <u>周一</u> ，现在还有祖国送给 |

Post-Hoc Methods

- Rule-based
- Retrieval-based
- Generative

Search Ads

[1-800-FLOWERS.COM® - Elegant Flowers for Any Occasion.](#)

Ad · [1800Flowers.com](#) · 40,100+ followers on Twitter

Ratings: Product Selection 4.5/5 - Price 4/5 - Customer Service 4/5

Elegant Flowers for Any Occasion. 100% Smile Guarantee!

1800flowers.com has been visited by 10K+ users in the past month

1800flowers.com is rated (321,968 reviews)

"Quick and fast - good choice of flowers!" - from consumer review

Anniversary Flowers.

Perfect Anniversary Flowers & Gifts

Special Moments with Your Loved One

Best Selling Flowers.

Our Most Popular Flower Bouquets

Great Gifts for any Event!

Gift Baskets.

Bountiful Baskets of Gourmet Snack

Perfect Gift for Sharing Smiles!

Sympathy.

Send a Personalized

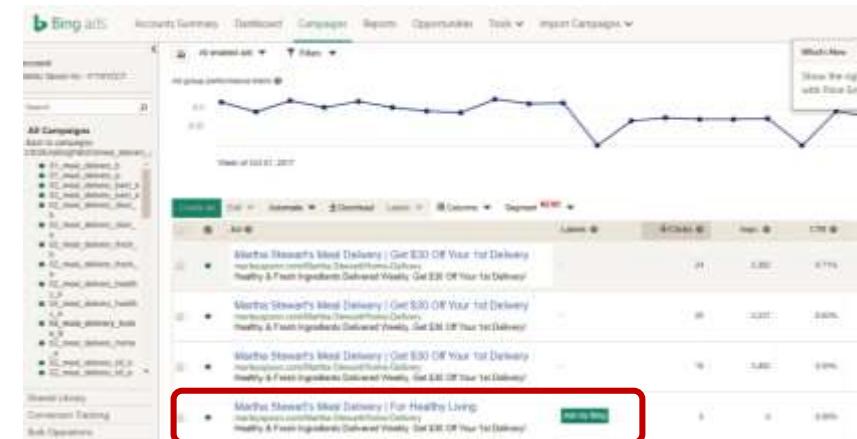
Message of Condolences.

Recommendation
model



Explanation
method

Bing Ads Platform



Post-Hoc Methods



- Rule-based
 - Retrieval-based
 - Generative

Native Ads on MSN

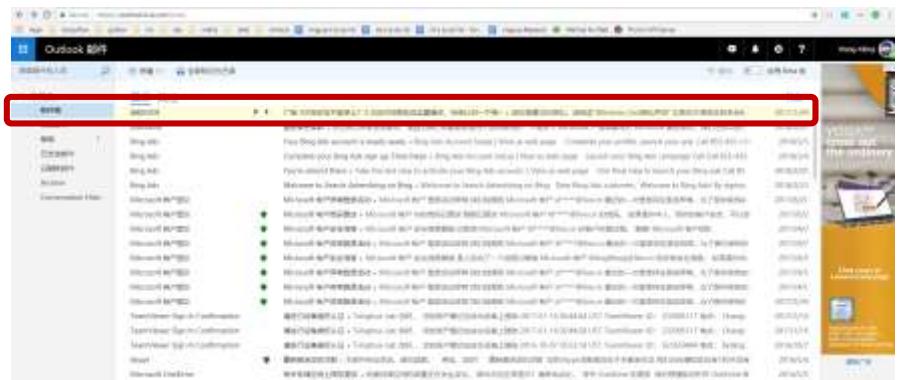


24 of the Coolest Set Photos in Movie History

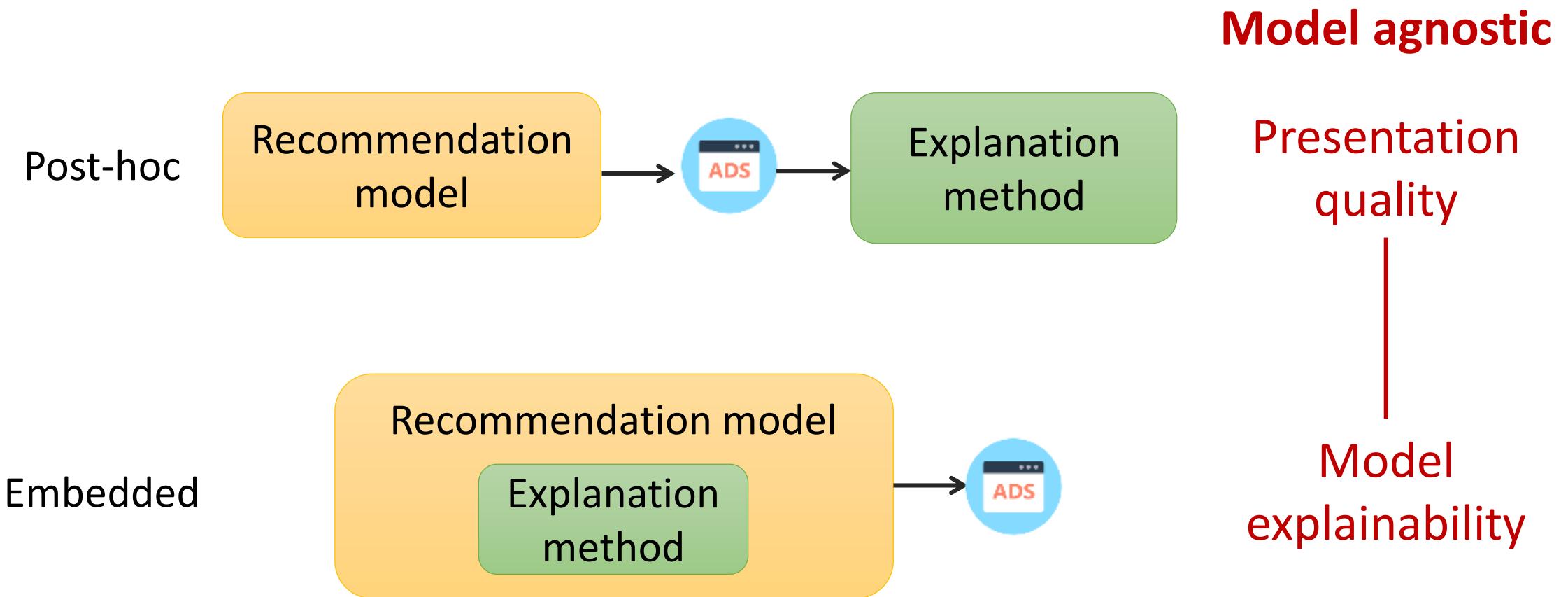
Sponsored

Esquire

Native Ads on outlook.com



Existing Pipelines



Embedded Methods

- Most embedded methods are feature-based
 - Features are usually parts from the auxiliary information (review, images)
 - It fits well with existing recommendation models (can even improve accuracy)

- Types of features

- Phrases
- Sentences
- Images

EFM: Phrase-level explanation

Explicit Factor Models for Explainable Recommendation
based on Phrase-level Sentiment Analysis

Yongfeng Zhang[†], Guokun Lai[†], Min Zhang[‡], Yi Zhang[‡], Yiqun Liu[‡], Shaoping Ma[†]

[†]State Key Laboratory of Intelligent Technology and Systems

[‡]Department of Computer Science & Technology, Tsinghua University, Beijing, 100084, China

[‡]School of Engineering, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, USA

{zhangyf07,laiguokun}@gmail.com,{z-m,yiqunliu,msp}@tsinghua.edu.cn,yiz@soe.ucsc.edu

[SIGIR2014]



"The **fresh spring rolls** came with peanut sauce that seemed home made (nice touch) and the fried imperial rolls came with the usual fish sauce dip which tasted full flavored vs a watered down version." in 2 reviews



"The **lemongrass chicken** in the dry vermicelli noodle was a winner and we enjoyed the apps as well." in 2 reviews



Recommended Items



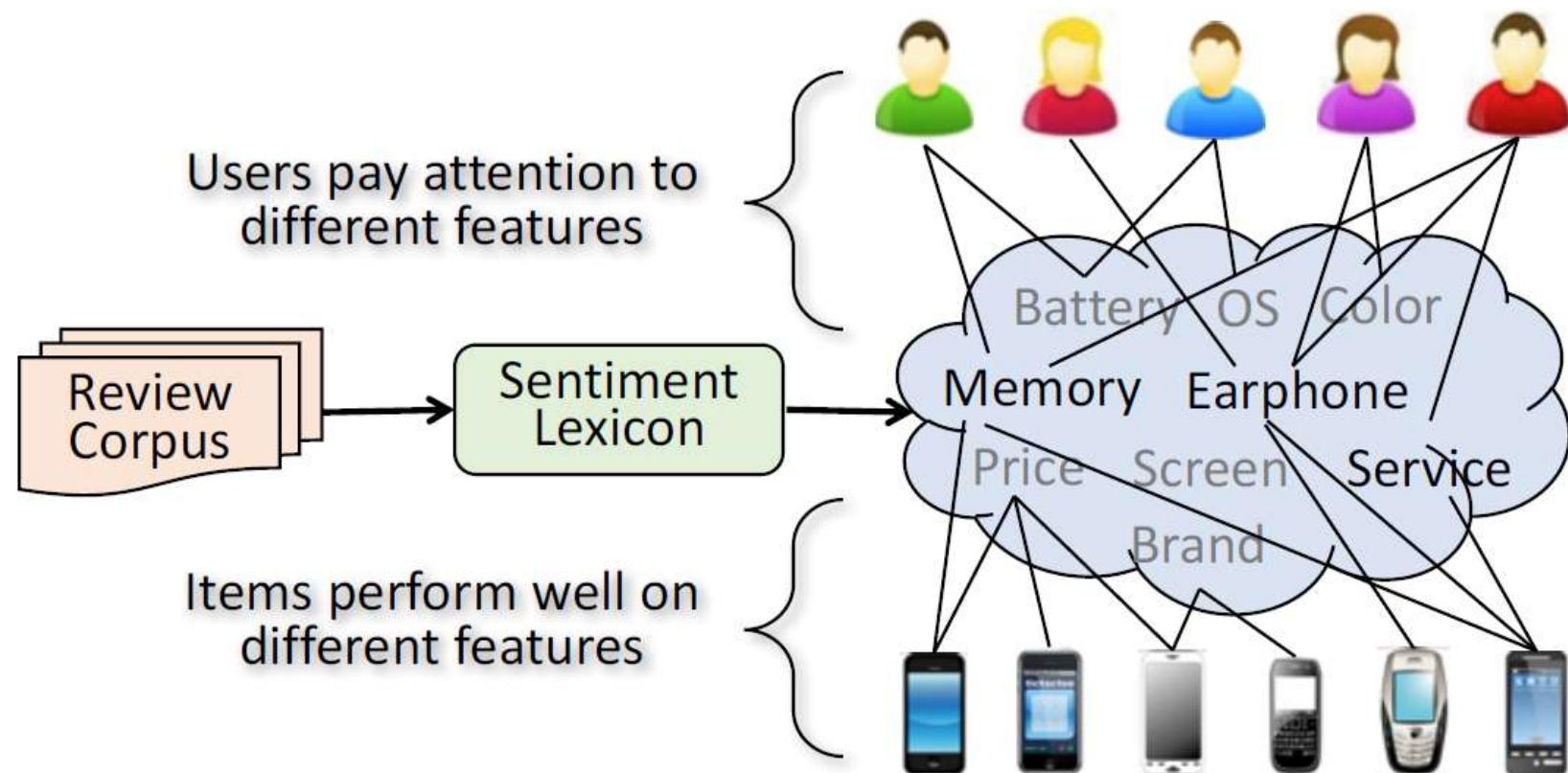
Visual Explanation



Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Intuition

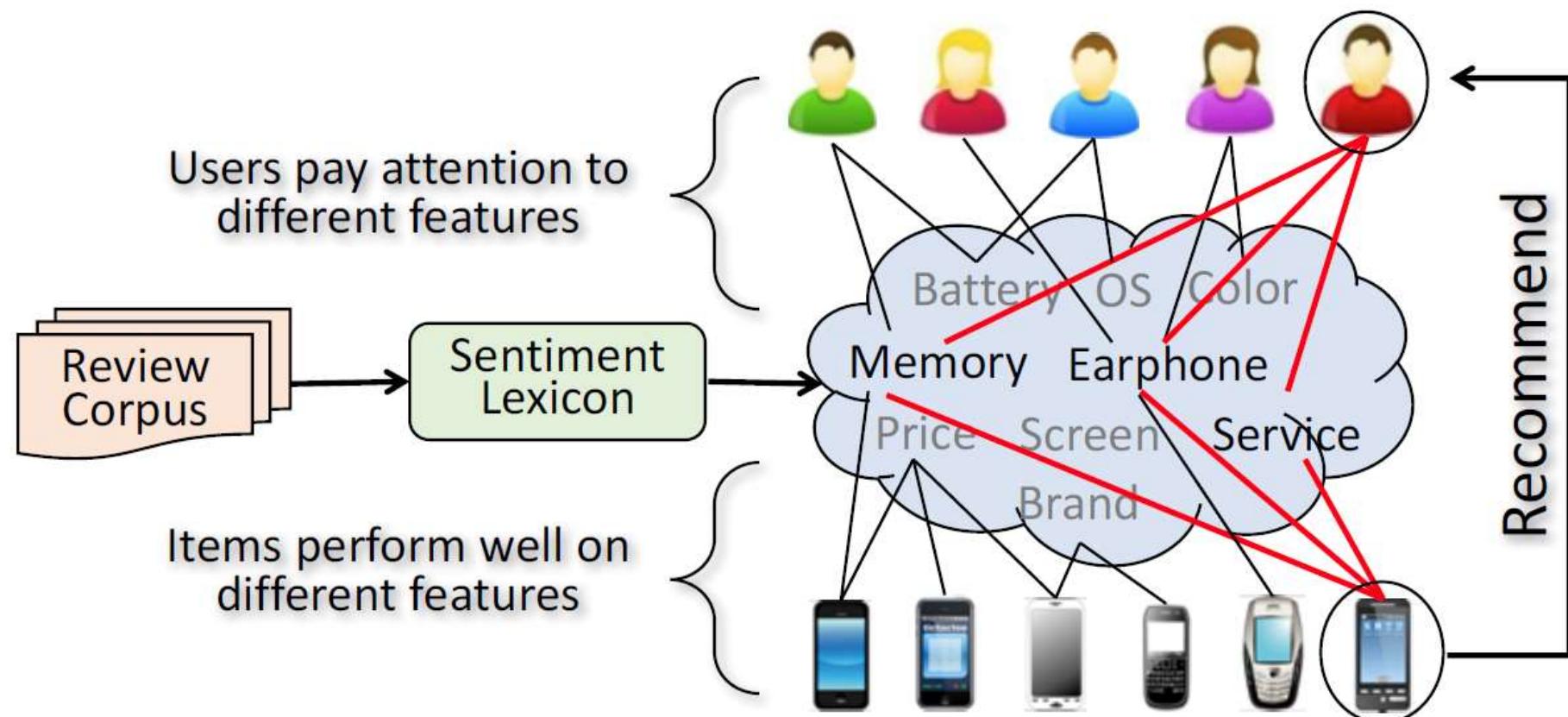
- To recommend a product that performs well on the features that a user concerns



Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Intuition

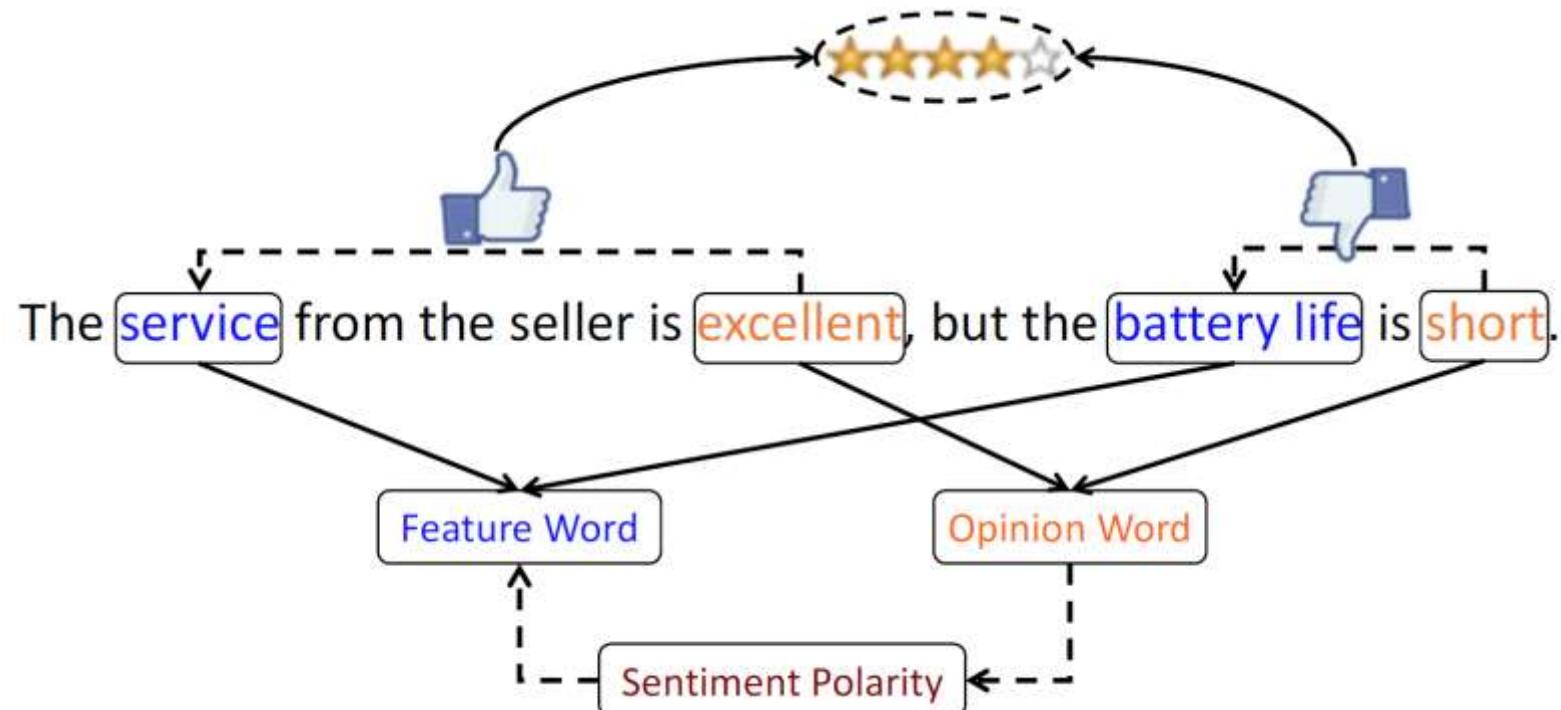
- To recommend a product that performs well on the features that a user concerns



Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

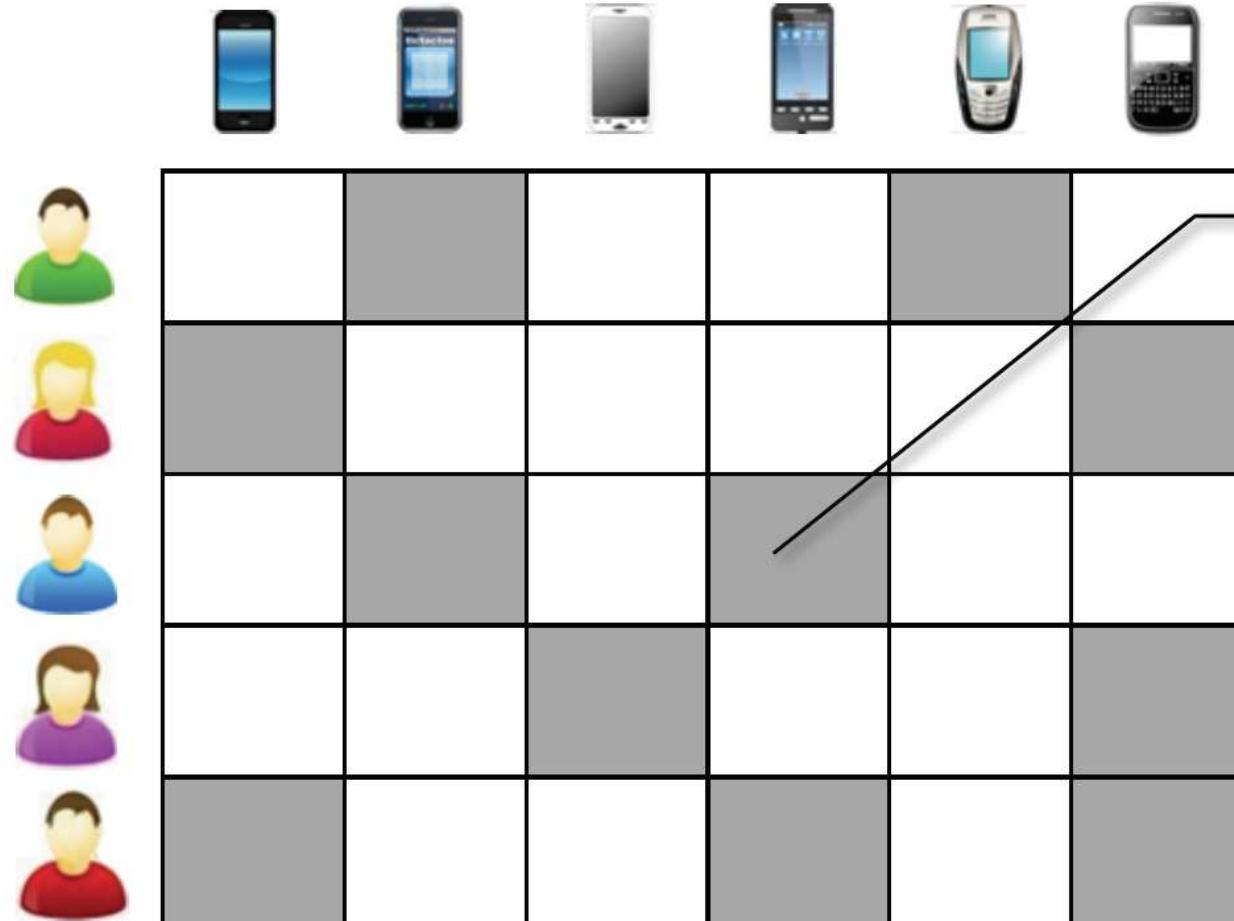
Aspect-level Sentiment Analysis

- To extract and organize features and opinions in unstructured reviews



Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Structure the Textual Reviews



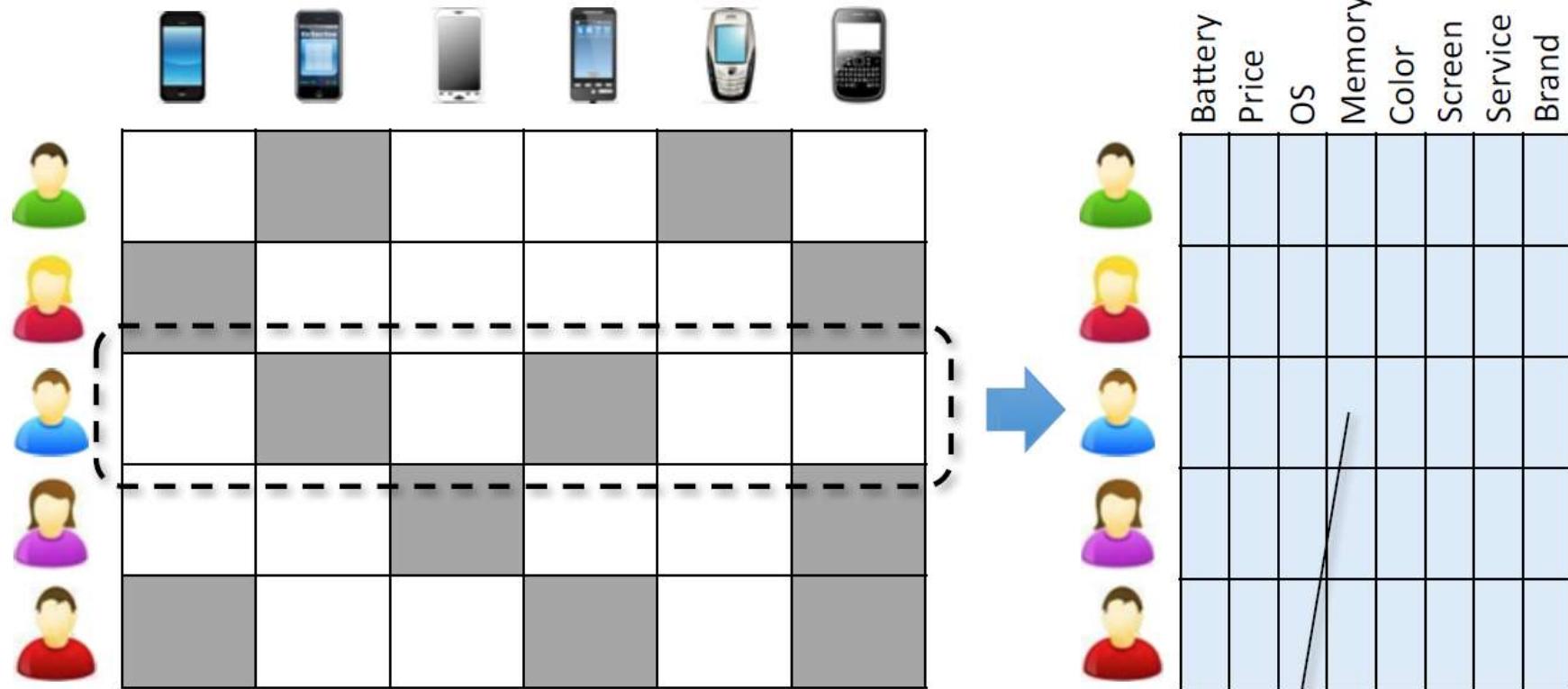
Star Rating: 4 stars
Review Text: Screen is perfect,
but earphone is not that good.

(screen, perfect, 1) [normal]
(earphone, good, 1) [reversed]

(screen, 1), (earphone, -1)

Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

User-Feature Attention Matrix

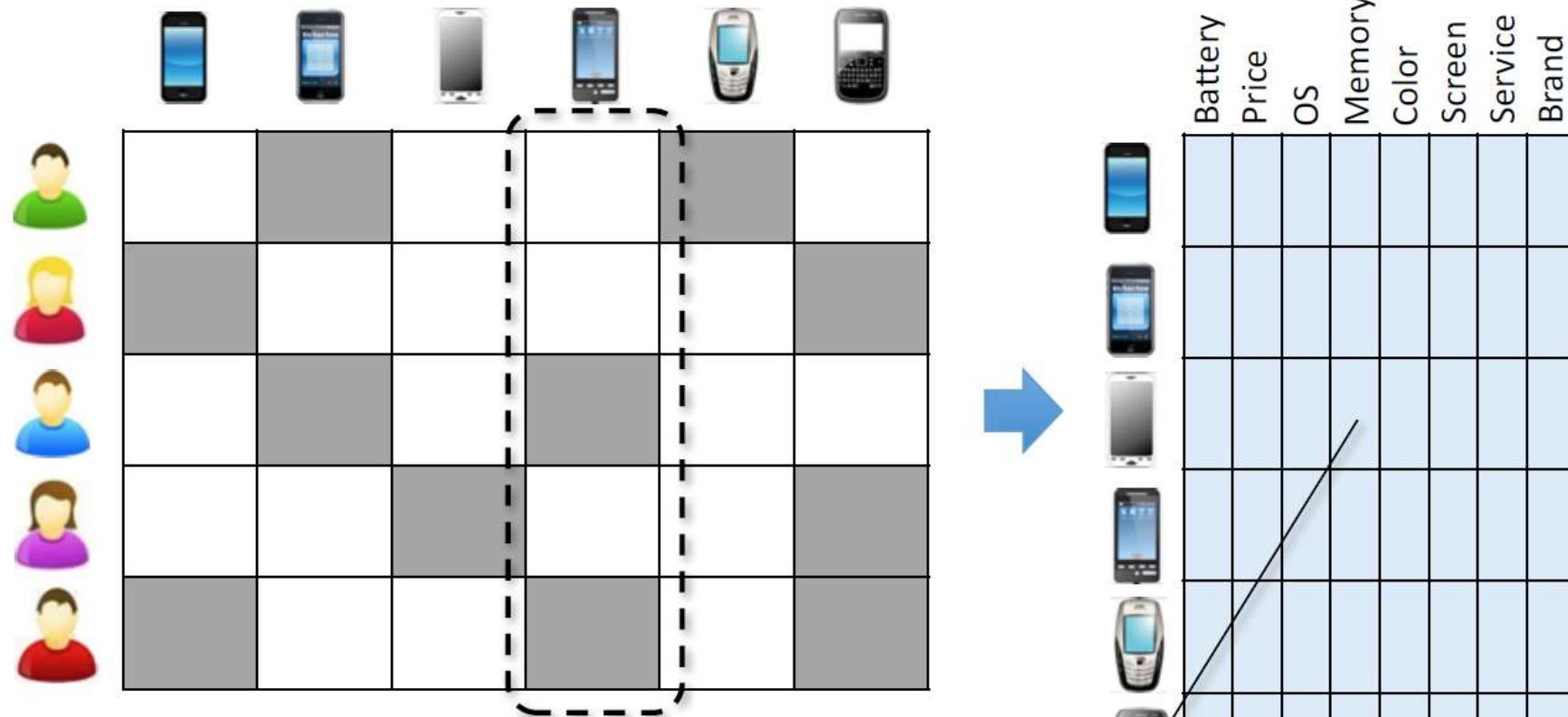


$$X_{ij} = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if user } u_i \text{ did not mention feature } F_j \\ 1 + (N - 1) \left(\frac{2}{1 + e^{-t_{ij}}} - 1 \right), & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

t_{ij} is the frequency that user i mentions feature j

Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Item-Feature Attention Matrix



$$Y_{ij} = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if item } p_i \text{ is not reviewed on feature } F_j \\ 1 + \frac{N - 1}{1 + e^{-k \cdot s_{ij}}}, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

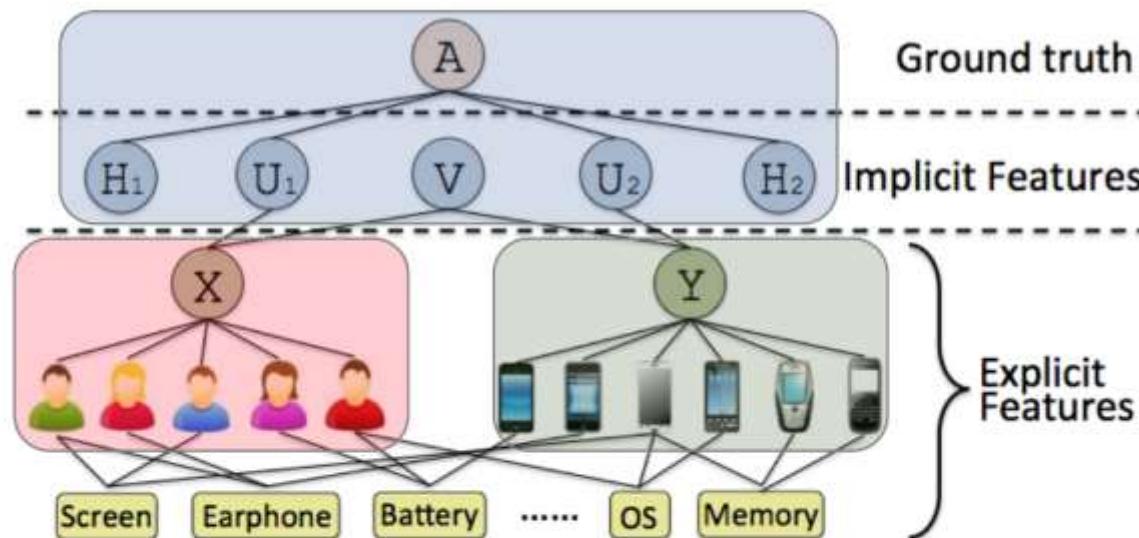
k is the frequency feature j is mentioned on item i
 s_{ij} is the average sentiment of these mentions

Sparse

Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Multi-Matrix Factorization

- Integrating the explicit and implicit features



$$\begin{aligned} & \underset{U_1, U_2, V, H_1, H_2}{\text{minimize}} \left\{ \|PQ^T - A\|_F^2 + \lambda_x \|U_1 V^T - X\|_F^2 + \lambda_y \|U_2 V^T - Y\|_F^2 \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \lambda_u (\|U_1\|_F^2 + \|U_2\|_F^2) + \lambda_h (\|H_1\|_F^2 + \|H_2\|_F^2) + \lambda_v \|V\|_F^2 \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$P = [U_1 \ H_1], \ Q = [U_2 \ H_2]$$

Explicit Factors

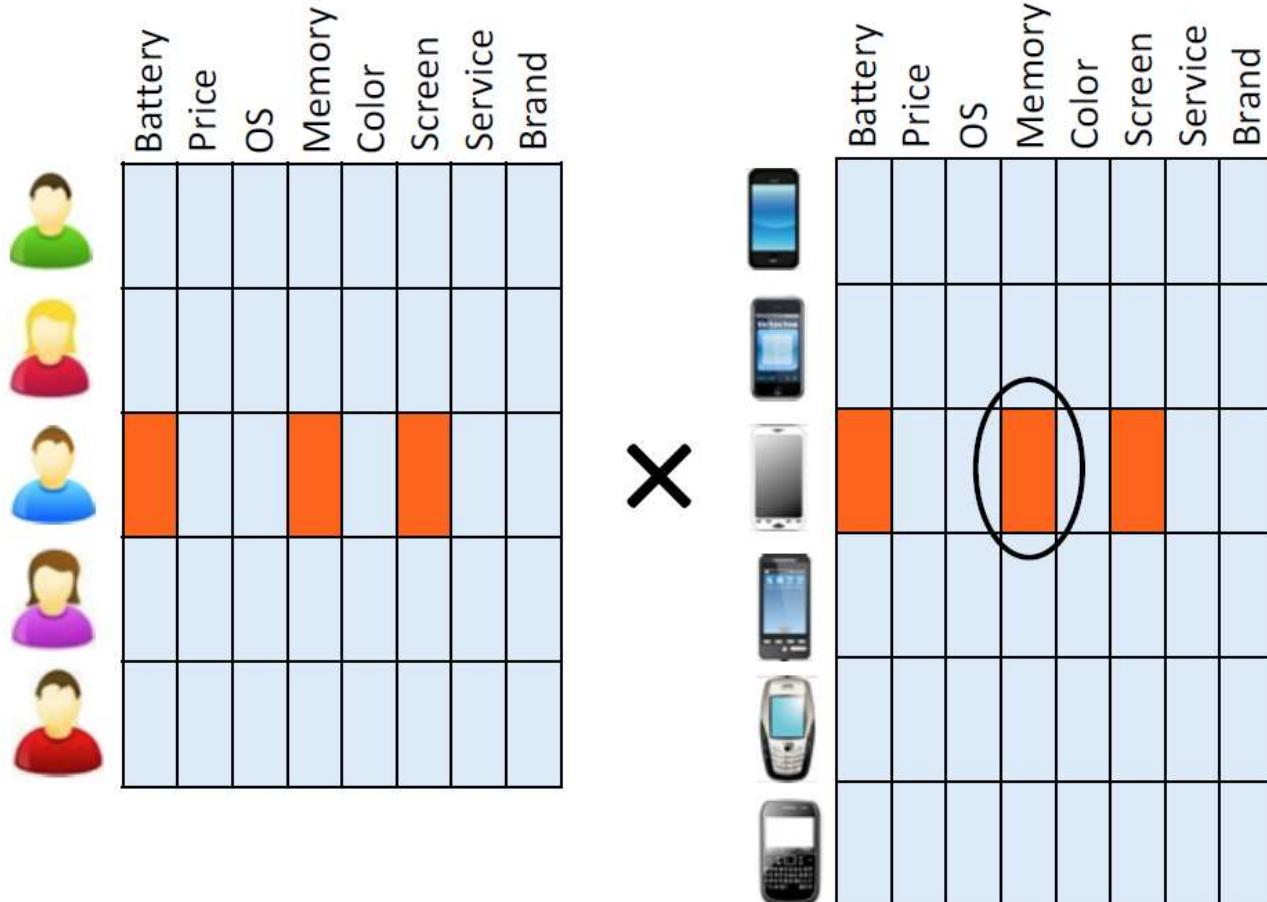
Hidden Factors

Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Personalized Explanations

Feature-level explanation for a recommended item

You might be interested in [feature],
on which this product performs well.

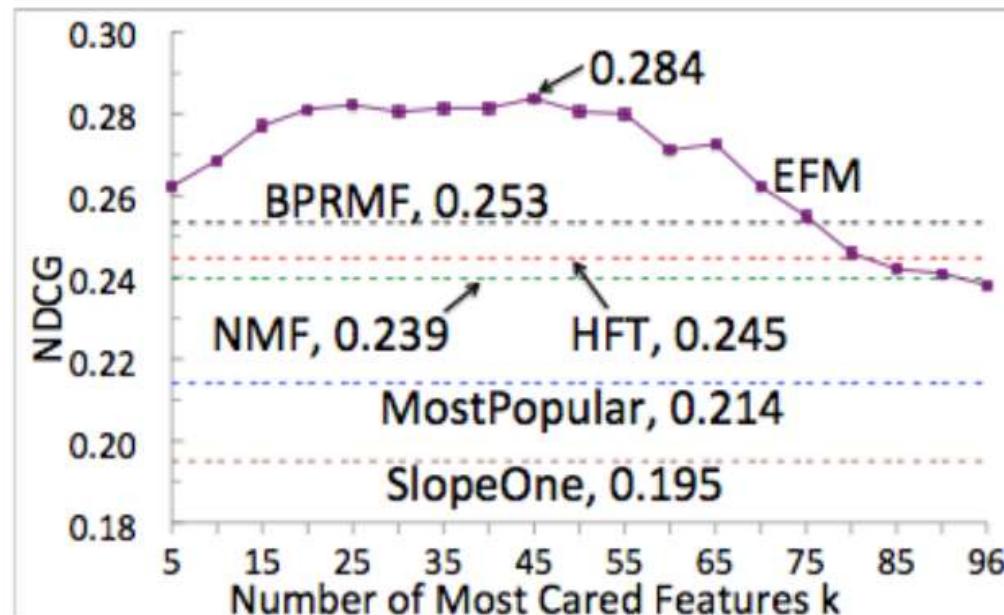


Recommendation model

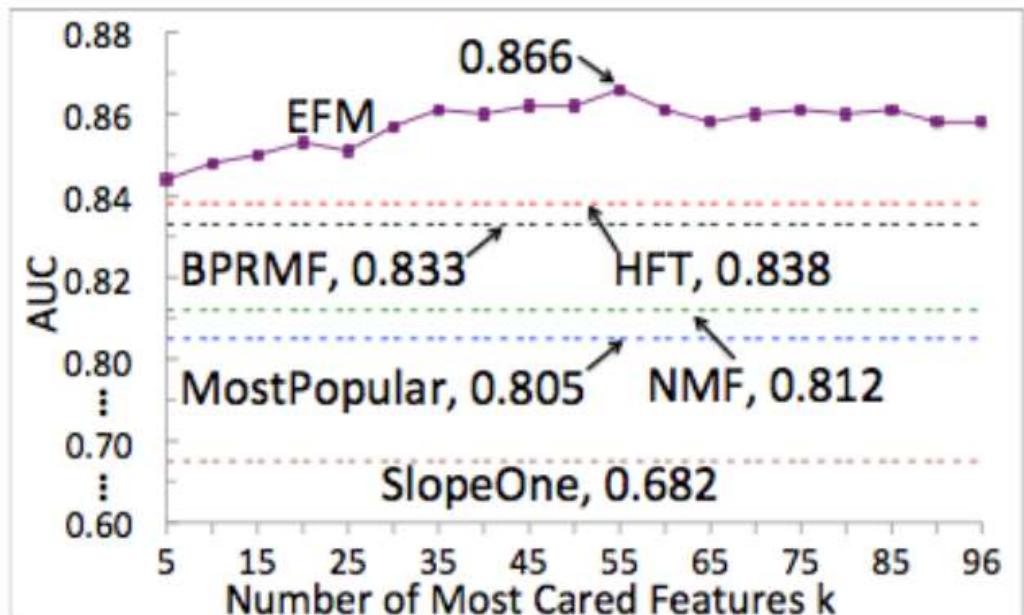
Explanation method

Offline Experiment

- Top-N recommendation is improved
- k : number of most cared features

(a) NDCG vs k

$$R_{ij} = \alpha \cdot \frac{\sum_{c \in C_i} \tilde{X}_{ic} \tilde{Y}_{jc}}{kN} + (1 - \alpha) \tilde{A}_{ij}$$

(b) AUC vs k

Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Applied in Commercial Systems

- Provide personalized recommendations by a popular commercial web browser in an e-commerce website



Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Click Through Rate Improvement

3 user groups

- A (experimental group): Receive our personalized explanations
- B (comparison group): Receive the ‘people also viewed’ explanation
- C (control group): Receive no explanation

| User Set | A | | B | | C | |
|----------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| Records | #Record | #Click | #Record | #Click | #Record | #Click |
| | 15,933 | 691 | 11,483 | 370 | 17,265 | 552 |
| CTR | 4.34% | | 3.22% | | 3.20% | |

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- Images

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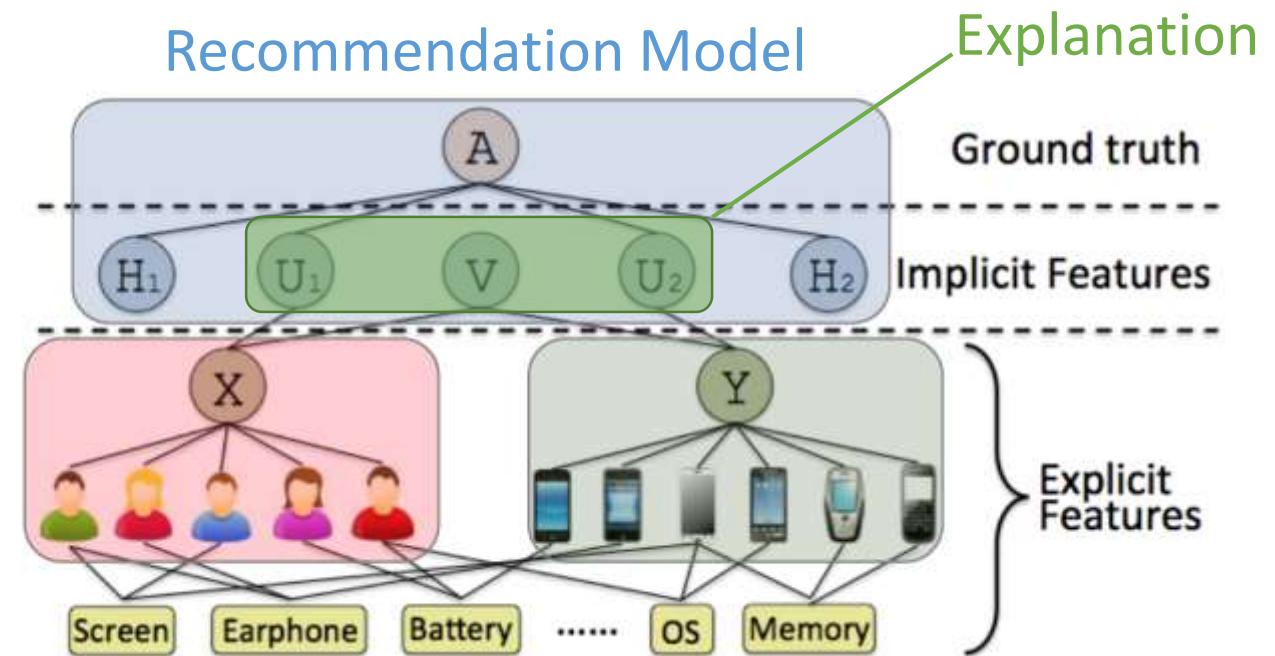
Yongfeng Zhang[†], Guokun Lai[†], Min Zhang[‡], Yi Zhang[‡], Yiqun Liu[‡], Shaoping Ma[†]

[†]State Key Laboratory of Intelligent Technology and Systems

[‡]Department of Computer Science & Technology, Tsinghua University, Beijing, 100084, China

[‡]School of Engineering, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, USA

{zhangyf07,laiguokun}@gmail.com,{z-m,yiqunliu,msp}@tsinghua.edu.cn,yiz@soe.ucsc.edu



Embedded Methods

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- Types of features
 - Phrases
 - Sentences
 - Images

NARRE: Review-level explanation

Neural Attentional Rating Regression with Review-level Explanations

Chong Chen
Yiqun Liu

Min Zhang*
Shaoping Ma

[WWW2018]

★★★★★ Good solid film
By M-M on July 30, 2013
Format: Amazon Video | Verified Purchase

It turned out to be entertaining and at the end I enjoyed the film. Good special effects, nice story line for "actions" and "comics". The protagonist (Tony Stark) looks natural: arrogant, brash, but at the same time clever, intelligent and ethic. The villain is a little bit overreacting, and annoying, as most of antagonists :) Overall that's a good movie.

8 people found this helpful. Was this review helpful to you? Report abuse

Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Usefulness of Review

A

★★★★★ **An Awesome Movie!**

By [Jokerz Wild](#) on October 9, 2017

Format: Amazon Video | [Verified Purchase](#)

I love Iron Man!

★★★★★ **Comic book characters... making millions of horrible movies these days.**

By [TylerVogt3329](#) on November 14, 2008

Format: DVD

You people these days consider this a good movie? Haha. Who in their right mind

B

The **usefulness** of a review is defined as whether it can provide detailed information about the item and help users make their purchasing decisions easily

R
(t)

C

Review
(to the item)

Rated usefulness
(to the review)

Format: Amazon Video | [Verified Purchase](#)

It turned out to be entertaining and at the end I enjoyed the film. Good special effects, nice story line for "actions" and "comics". The protagonist (Tony Stark) looks natural: arrogant, brash, but at the same time clever, intelligent and ethic. The villain is a little bit overreacting, and annoying, as most of antagonists :) Overall that's a good movie.

8 people found this helpful. Was this review helpful to you? Report abuse

Recommendation
model

Explanation
method

Limitations of Previous Work

Incorporating Textual Review

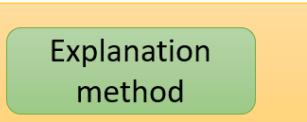
- ✓ Most efforts are focused on how to combin with LDA model to improve the recommendation performance and generate word/feature-level explanation

Usefulness of review

- ✓ Previous work only focuses on filtering spam in reviews as pre-processing

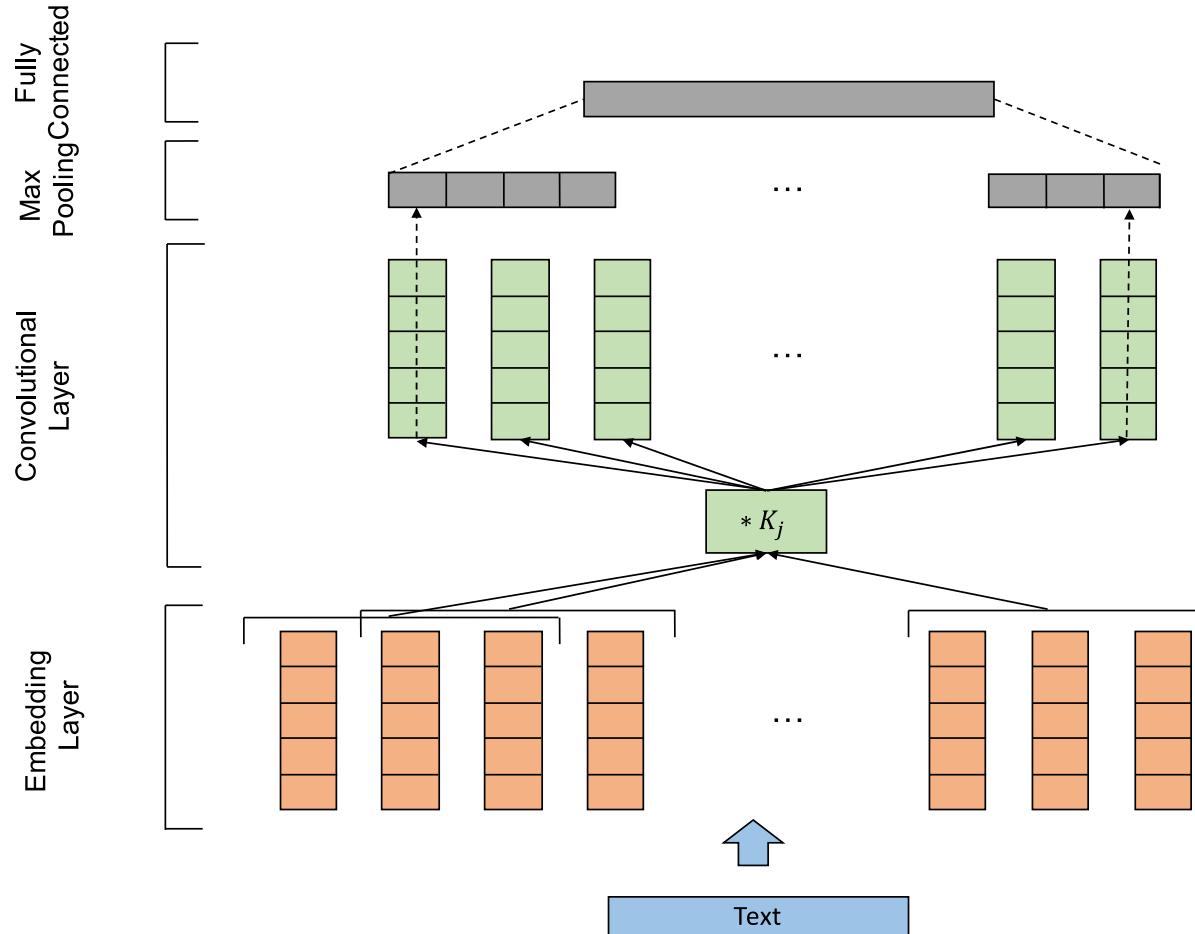


Recommendation
model



Explanation
method

CNN Text Processor



$$X = WO + g$$

$$O = [o_1, o_2, \dots, o_m]$$

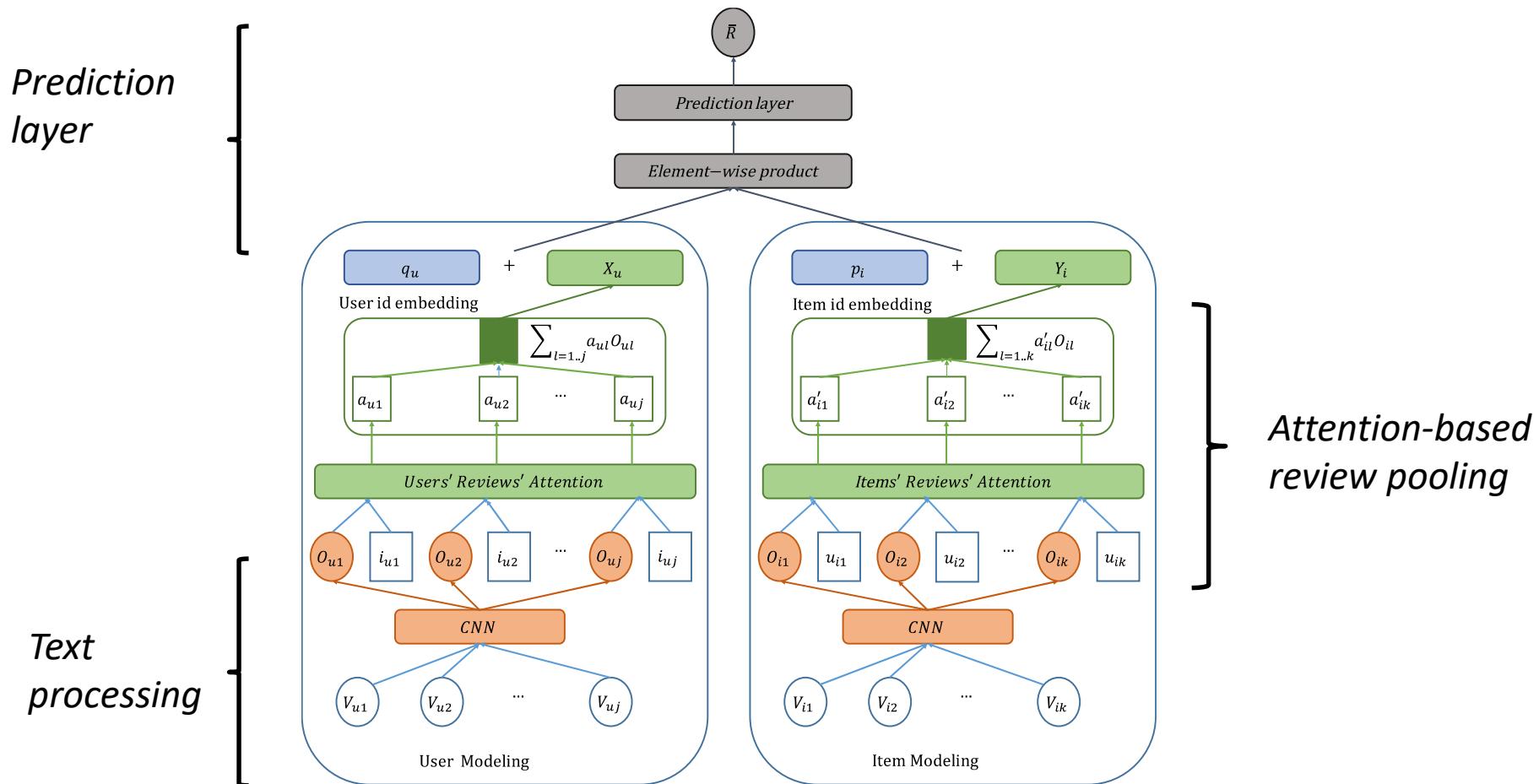
$$o_j = \max(z_1, z_2, \dots, z_j^{(T-t+1)})$$

$$z_j = \text{ReLU}(V_{1:T} * K_j + b_j)$$

Recommendation
model

Explanation
method

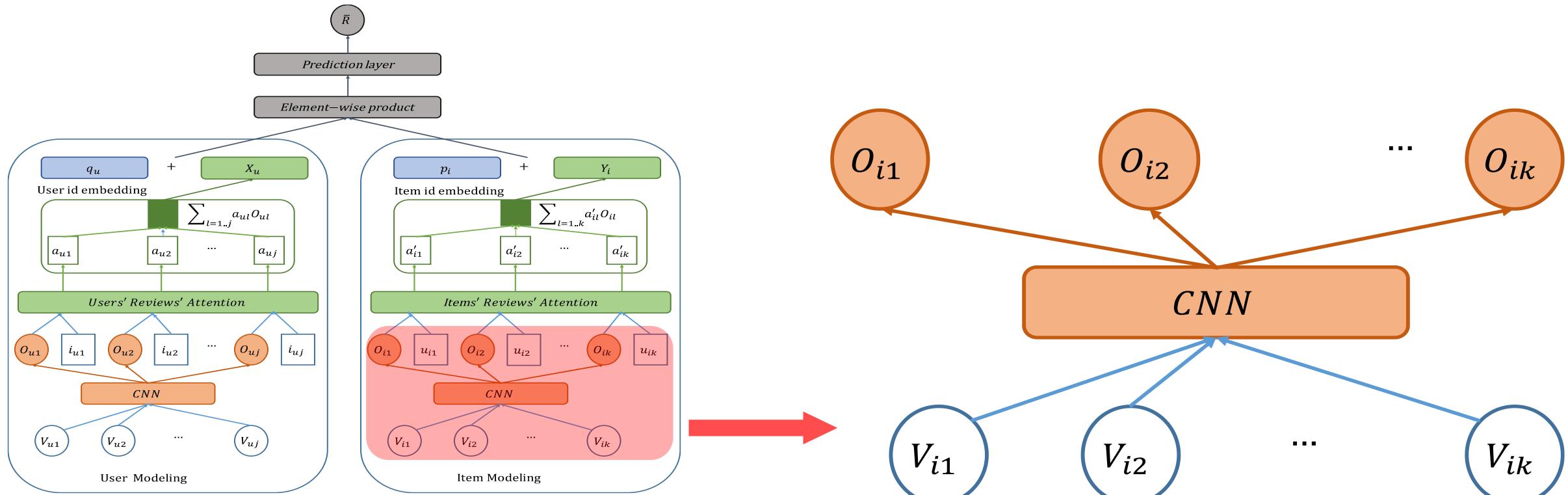
Framework



Recommendation
model

Explanation
method

1. Text Processing



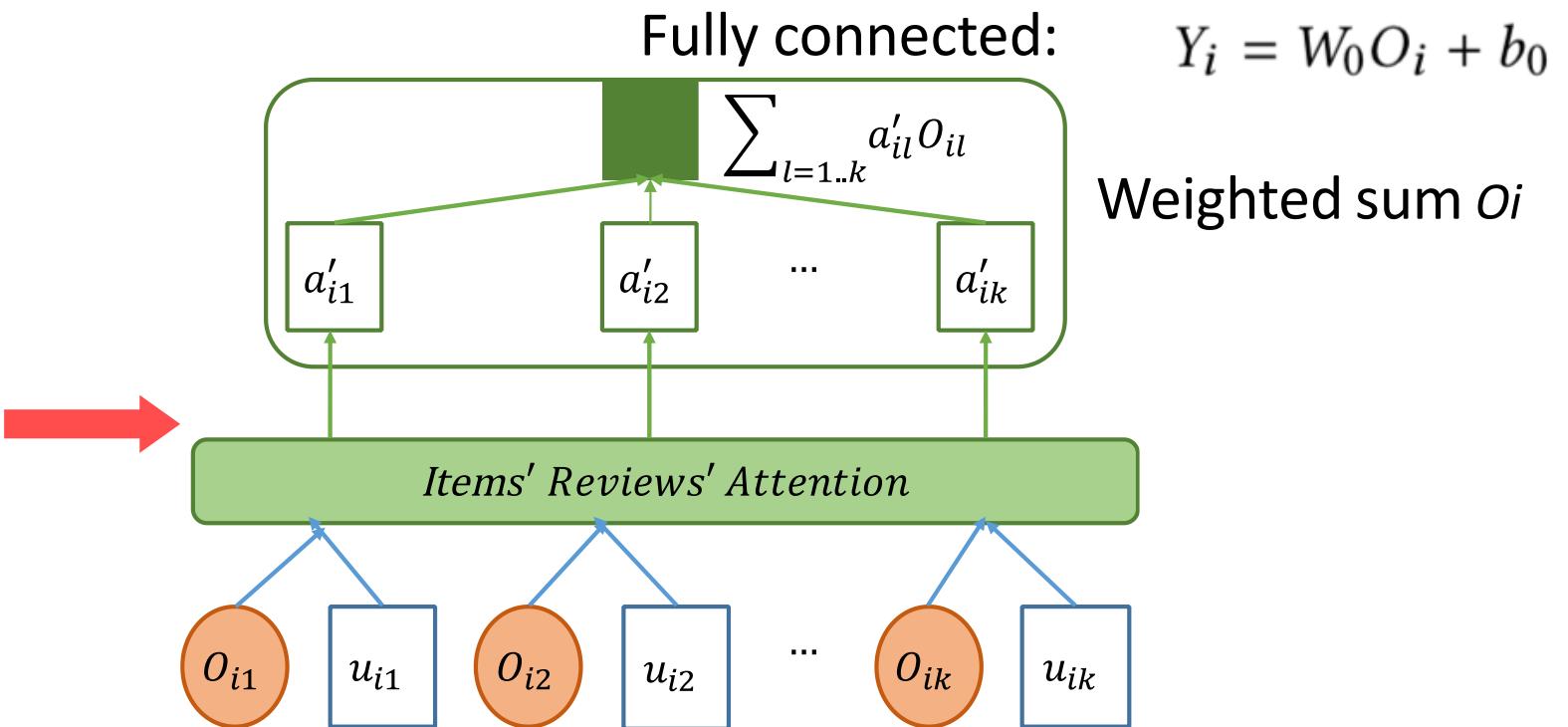
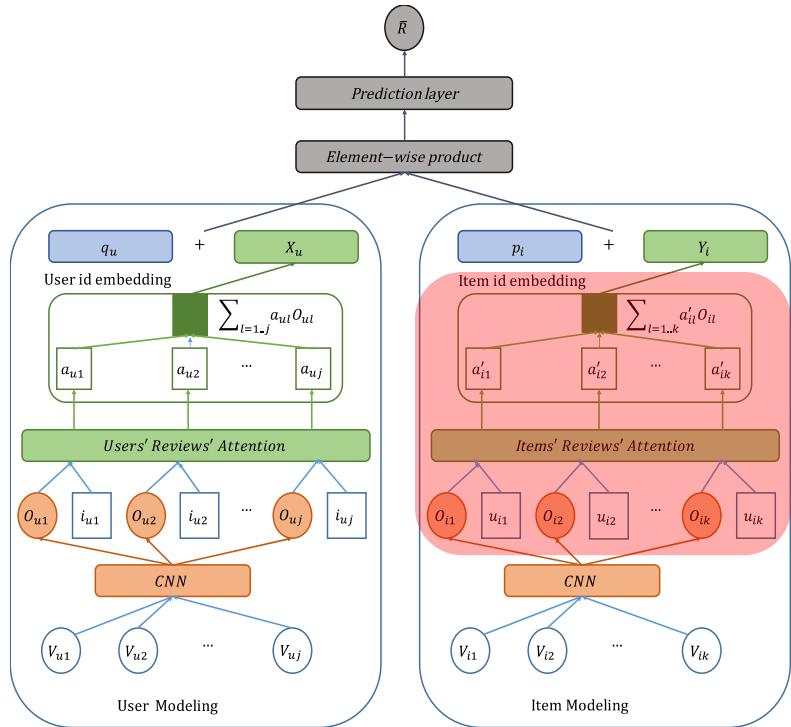
Input: Review list of item i $[V_{i_1}, V_{i_2}, \dots, V_{i_k}]$

Output: $[O_{i_1}, O_{i_2}, \dots, O_{i_k}]$

Recommendation
model

Explanation
method

2. Attention-based Review pooling



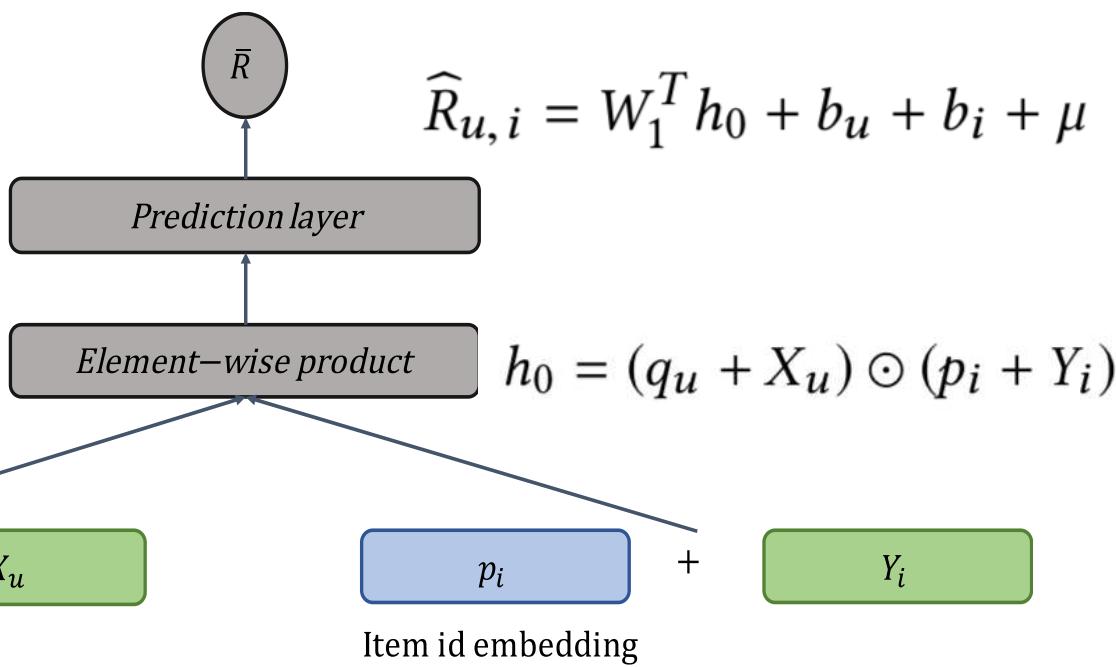
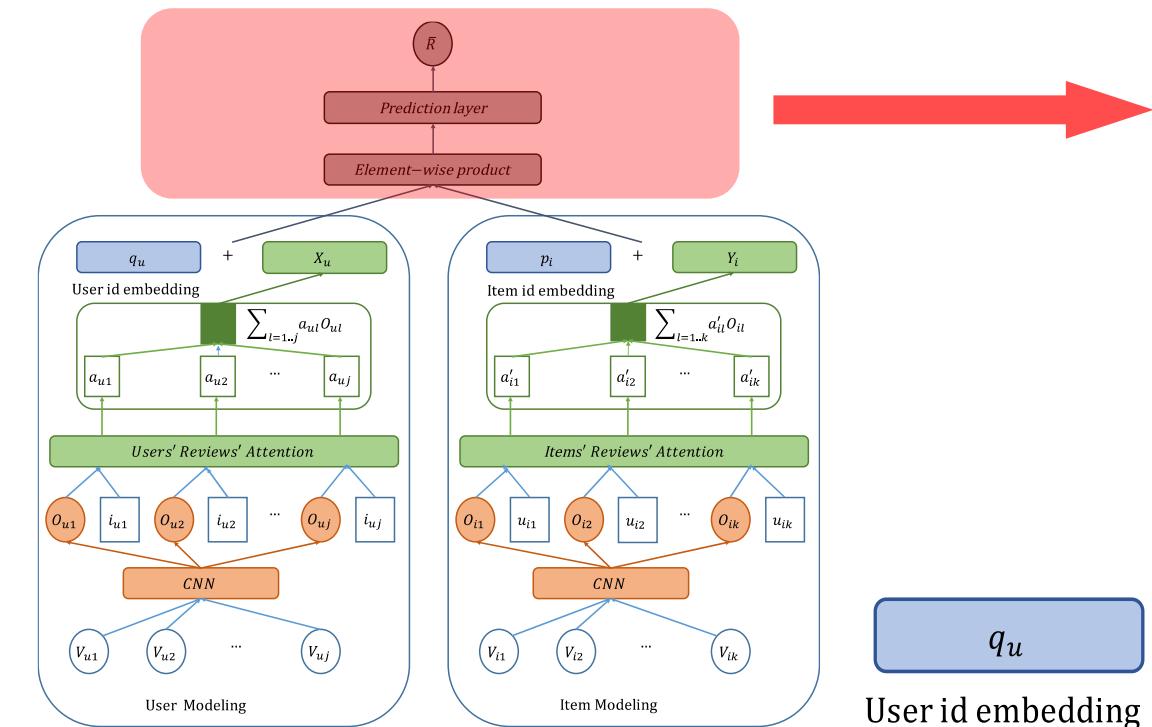
Attention score: $a_{il}^* = h^T \text{ReLU}(W_O O_{il} + W_u u_{il} + b_1) + b_2$

Normalization: $a_{il} = \frac{\exp(a_{il}^*)}{\sum_{l=0}^k \exp(a_{il}^*)}$

Recommendation
model

Explanation
method

3. Prediction Layer



Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Experiments: Data & Metric

Datasets:

| | Toys_and_Games | Kindle_Store | Movies_and_TV | Yelp_2017 |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| <i>users</i> | 19,412 | 68,223 | 123,960 | 199,445 |
| <i>items</i> | 11,924 | 61,935 | 50,052 | 119,441 |
| <i>ratings & reviews</i> | 167,597 | 982,619 | 1,679,533 | 3.072.129 |

Evaluation Metric :
 – RMSE

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{u,i} (\hat{R}_{u,i} - R_{u,i})^2}$$

Recommendation
model

Explanation
method

Baselines

- CF-based Methods
 - PMF, NMF, SVD++
- LDA-based Method
 - HFT
- Deep learning Method
 - DeepCoNN

| Characteristics | PMF | NMF | SVD++ | HFT | DeepCoNN | NARRE |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-------|-----|----------|-------|
| Ratings | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Textual Reviews | \ | \ | \ | √ | √ | √ |
| Deep Learning | \ | \ | \ | \ | √ | √ |
| Review Usefulness | \ | \ | \ | \ | \ | √ |

NARRE: Neural Attentional Regression model with Review-level Explanations

Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

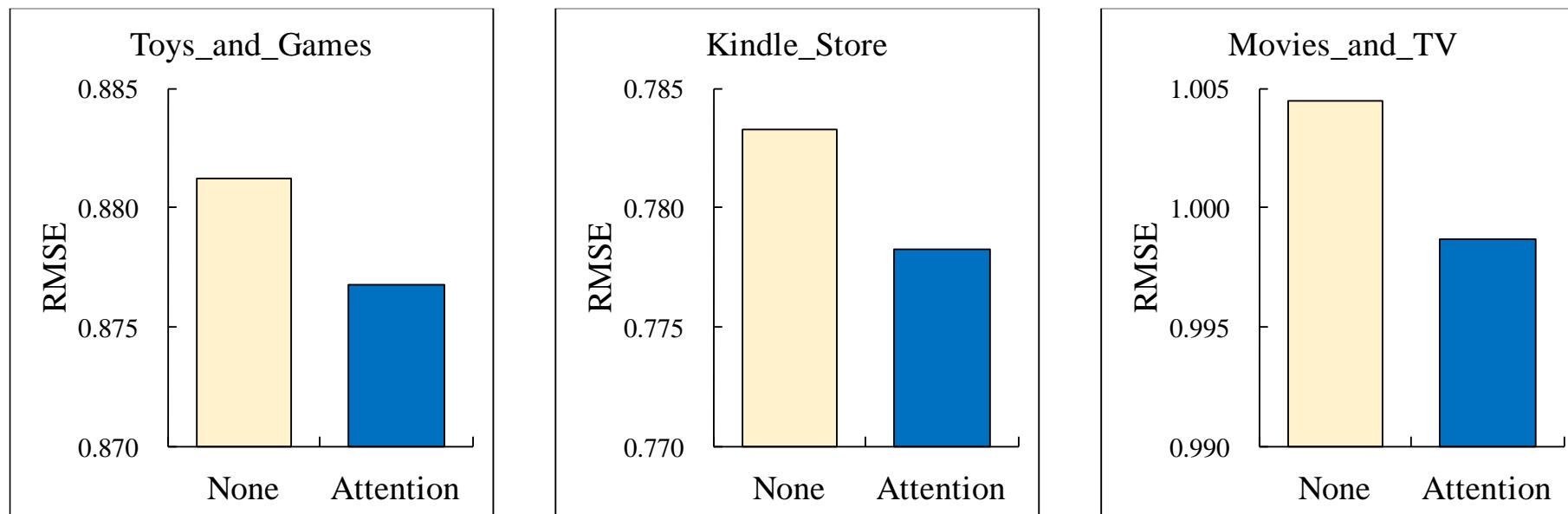
Model Comparisons

- Performance comparison on four datasets for all methods (RMSE)
- 80% training, 10% validation, 10% test

| | Toys_and_Games | Kindle_Store | Movies_and_TV | Yelp-2017 |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| PMF | 1.3076 | 0.9914 | 1.2920 | 1.3340 |
| NMF | 1.0399 | 0.9023 | 1.1125 | 1.2916 |
| SVD++ | 0.8860 | 0.7928 | 1.0447 | 1.1735 |
| HFT | 0.8925 | 0.7917 | 1.0291 | 1.1699 |
| DeepCoNN | 0.8890 | 0.7875 | 1.0128 | 1.1642 |
| NARRE | 0.8769** | 0.7783** | 0.9965** | 1.1559* |

Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Effect of Attention



- **None:** $O_i = \sum_{l=1, \dots, k} \frac{1}{k} O_{il}$
- **Attention:** $O_i = \sum_{l=1, \dots, k} a_{il} O_{il}$

Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Case Study

| | | |
|--------|-----------------------|--|
| Item 1 | a ($a_{ij}=0.1932$) | These brushes are great quality for children's art work. They seem to last well and the bristles stay in place very well even with tough use. |
| | b ($a_{ij}=0.0161$) | I bought it for my daughter as a gift. |
| Item 2 | a ($a_{ij}=0.2143$) | From beginning to end this book is a joy to read. Full of mystery, mayhem, and a bit of magic for good measure. Perfect flow with excellent writing and editing. |
| | b ($a_{ij}=0.0319$) | I like reading in my spare time, and I think this book is very suitable for me. |

Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Review Usefulness Evaluation 1

- Baselines:
 - Latest
 - Random Selected
 - Length
- Ground truth:
 - Top_rated_useful

| | Toys_and_Games | | | | Kindle_Store | | | | Movies_and_TV | | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------|--------|-----------------|--------------|--------|--------|-----------------|---------------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| | Latest | Random | Length | NARRE | Latest | Random | Length | NARRE | Latest | Random | Length | NARRE |
| Precision@1 | 0.1487 | 0.3255 | 0.2476 | 0.3860** | 0.2447 | 0.4574 | 0.4041 | 0.5235** | 0.3040 | 0.4908 | 0.3903 | 0.6576** |
| Recall@1 | 0.0362 | 0.0952 | 0.0771 | 0.1398** | 0.0400 | 0.0992 | 0.0852 | 0.1131** | 0.0436 | 0.0976 | 0.0677 | 0.1445** |
| Precision@10 | 0.1550 | 0.2000 | 0.2316 | 0.2697** | 0.2228 | 0.2707 | 0.2933 | 0.3530** | 0.2325 | 0.2925 | 0.3369 | 0.3459** |
| Recall@10 | 0.4367 | 0.5763 | 0.6763 | 0.8601** | 0.4510 | 0.5551 | 0.6168 | 0.8317** | 0.3716 | 0.4673 | 0.5403 | 0.7674** |

**:p<0.01 in statistical significance test, compared to the best baseline

Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Review Usefulness Evaluation 2

- Crowd-sourcing based usefulness labeling

Annotation Instructions 1:

Background: You are going to buy an item, so you want to refer to the reviews written by previous consumers to know more about this item.

Task1: You need to browse each of the reviews below and then determine whether it is useful for your purchasing.

The review can be classified as follows:

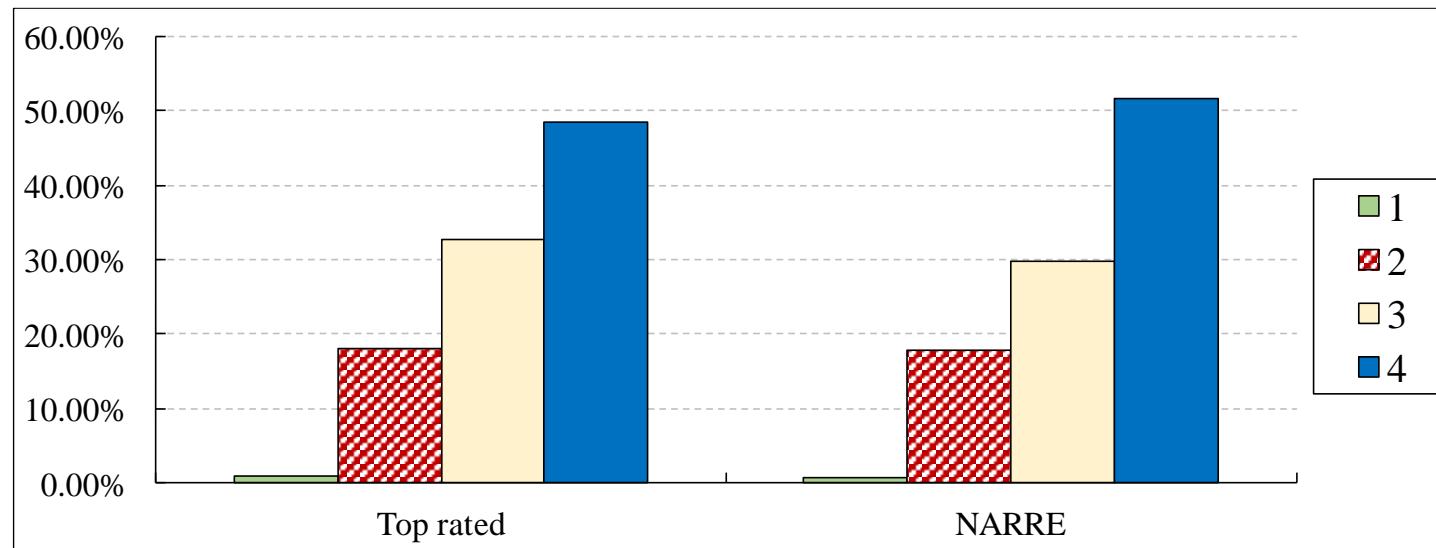
- **1 star:** Not useful at all.
- **2 stars:** Somewhat useful.
- **3 stars:** Fairly useful.
- **4 stars:** Very useful.

| | Items | Reviews | Reviews of each method | Annotations | Weighted κ |
|-------|-------|---------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| U_a | 100 | 1264 | 745 | 3792 | 0.4112 |

Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Review Usefulness Evaluation 2

- Crowd-sourcing based usefulness labeling



Ua = 1: not useful at all;
 2: somewhat useful;
 3: fairly useful;
 4: very useful.

| | Precision@1 | Precision@5 | Precision@10 | Recall@1 | Recall@5 | Recall@10 | NDCG@1 | NDCG@5 | NDCG@10 |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Top_Rated_Useful | 0.4800 | 0.4440 | 0.3610 | 0.0821 | 0.3453 | 0.4953 | 0.6640 | 0.6906 | 0.7076 |
| NARRE | 0.5900** | 0.4760** | 0.3850** | 0.1067** | 0.3532** | 0.5046** | 0.7413** | 0.7231** | 0.7358** |

Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Review Usefulness Evaluation 3

- Crowd-sourcing based pairwise evaluation

Annotation Instructions 2:

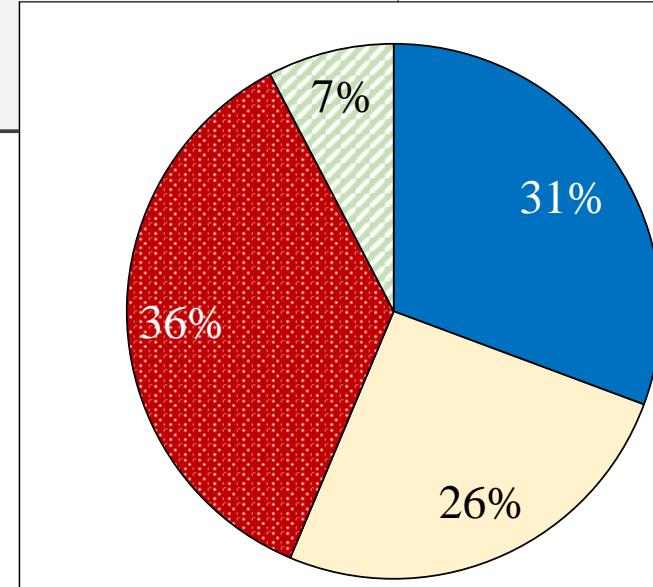
Task2: You will see two groups of reviews, and each group contains 5 reviews. You need to browse each group and annotate pairwise usefulness between Group A and Group B.

- A is more useful than B.
- B is more useful than A.
- A and B are almost the same, both useful.
- A and B are almost the same, both useless.

In the Figure →

A: Ours;

B: Top_rate_useful;



In the evaluation: randomly shown as A or B

- A is more useful than B
- B is more useful than A
- A and B are almost the same, both useful
- A and B are almost the same, both useless

Embedded Methods

Recommendation
model

Explanation
method

- Most embedded methods are feature-based
 - Features are usually parts from the auxiliary information (review, images)
 - It fits well with existing recommendation models (can even improve accuracy)
- Types of features
 - Phrases
 - Sentences
 - Images

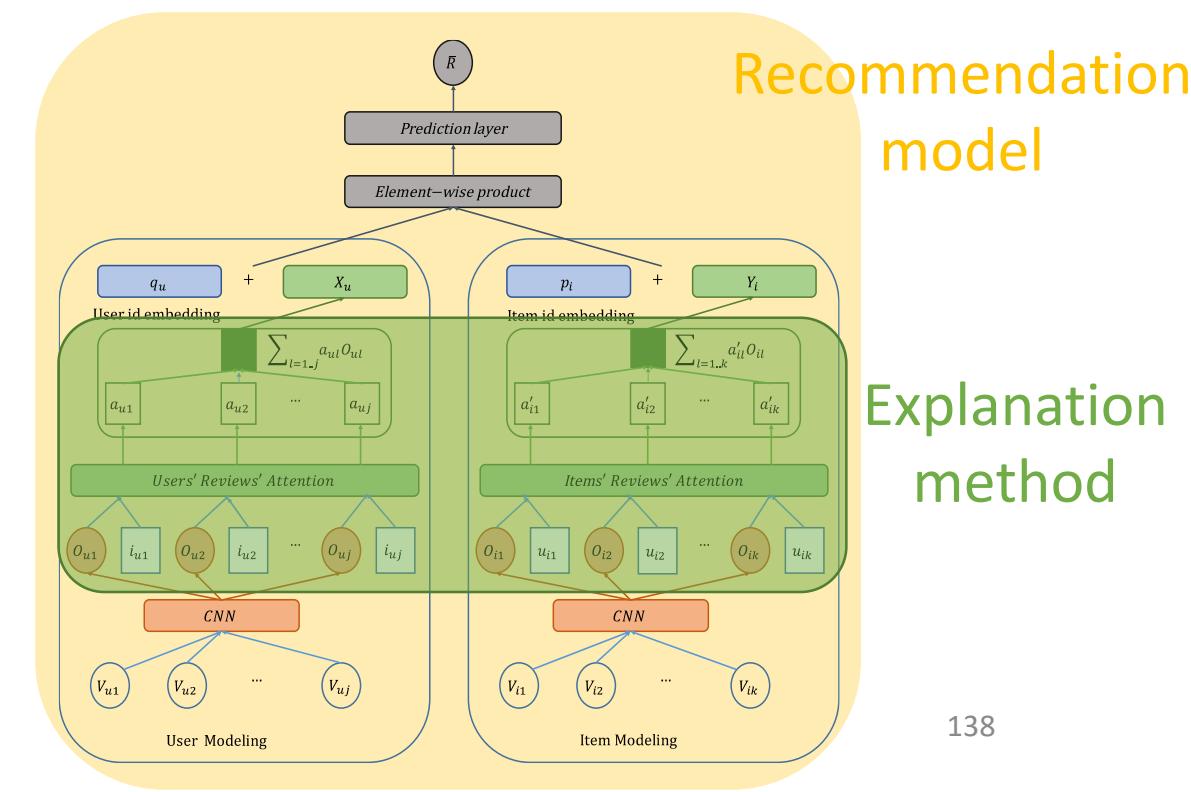
NARRE: Review-level explanation

Neural Attentional Rating Regression with Review-level Explanations

Chong Chen
Yiqun Liu

Min Zhang*
Shaoping Ma

[WWW2018]



Embedded Methods

- Most embedded methods are feature-based
 - Features are usually parts from the auxiliary information (review, images)
 - It fits well with existing recommendation models (can even improve accuracy)
- Types of features
 - Phrases
 - Sentences
 - Images

Re-VECF: Review enhanced visual explanation

Visually Explainable Recommendation

Xu Chen
Yixin Cao

Yongfeng Zhang
Zheng Qin

Hongteng Xu
Hongyuan Zha

[Arxiv2018]

| # | Target Item | Historical Records | Textual Review | Visual Explanation | |
|---|-------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|---------|
| | | | | VECF | Re-VECF |
| 1 | | | this is a large watch... nearly as large as my suunto but due to its articulated strap it fits on the wrist very well. | | |
| 2 | | | this is a really comfortable v-neck. i found that the size and location of the v are just right for me. i'm 5'8 & #34, but 200 lbs (and dropping :) | | |
| 3 | | | Great leggings. perfect for fly fishing or hunting or running. just perfect anytime you are cold! | | |
| 4 | | | The socks on the shoes are a perfect fit for me. first time with a shoe with the speed laces and i like them a lot | | |
| 5 | | | Really like these socks! they are really thick woolen socks and are good for cold days. they cover a good portion of your feet as they go a little (halfway) above the calf muscle area. | | |
| 6 | | | I like the front pocket~! Very cool! | | |

Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

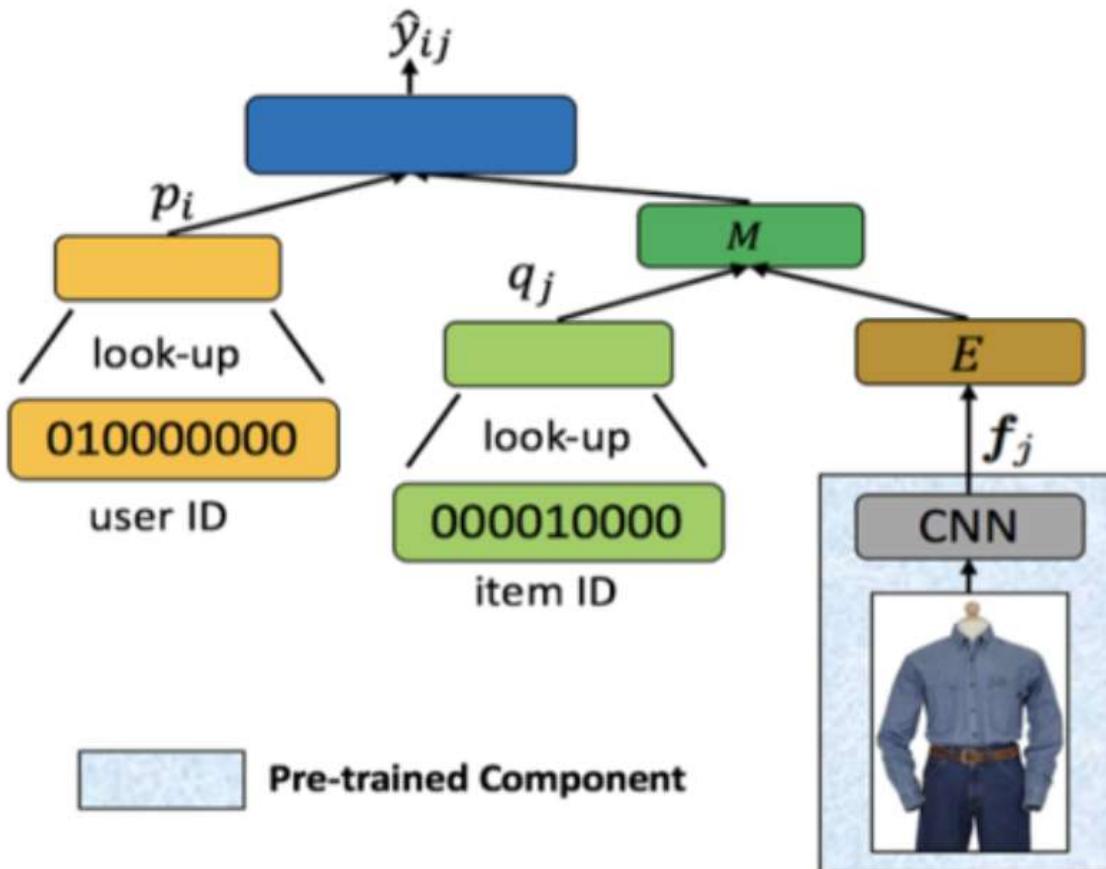
Visually Explainable Recommendation

- Users may care about different visual features even on the same item



Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Visual Collaborative Filtering (VCF)



If we do not consider image feature :

$$\hat{y}_{ij} = \mathbf{p}_i^T \cdot \mathbf{q}_j$$

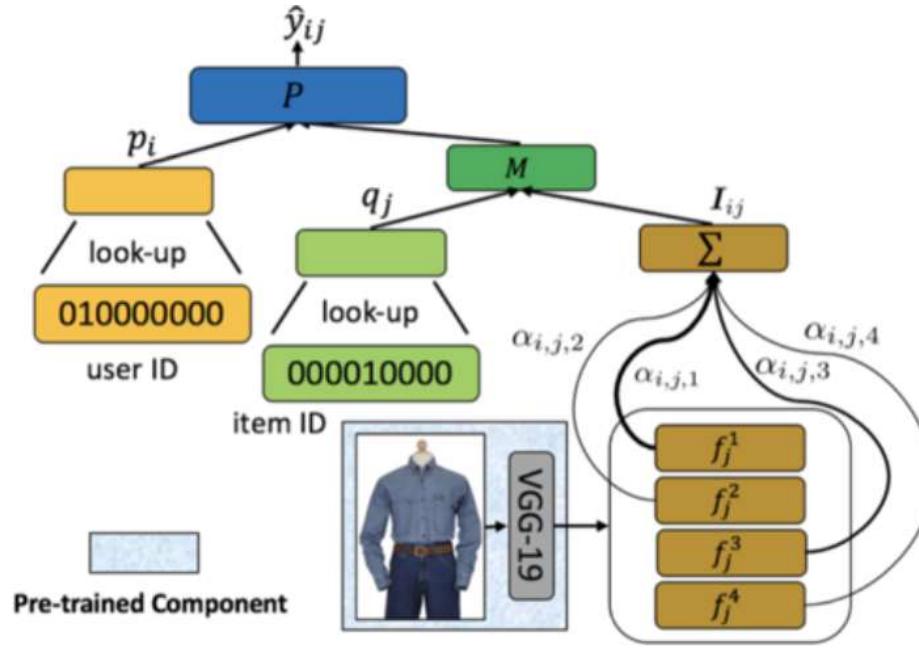
Integrating pre-trained image feature:

$$\hat{y}_{ij} = \mathbf{p}_i^T \cdot M(\mathbf{q}_j, E(\mathbf{f}_j))$$

Visually Explainable Collaborative Filtering (VECF)

Recommendation model

Explanation method



- 1. **Image feature extraction:** divide image by 14*14, each region is fed into pre-trained VGG network [1] to generate a 512-dim vector.
- 2. **Using attention mechanism to learn a unified image vector**

$$IMAGE_j = \sum_{k=1}^h \alpha_{i,j,k} \cdot f_j^k$$

$$a_{i,j,k} = g((\mathbf{w}_{att}^u)^T \cdot p_i + (\mathbf{w}_{att}^r)^T \cdot f_j^k + b_{att})$$

$$\alpha_{i,j,k} = \frac{a_{i,j,k}}{\sum_{\kappa=1}^h a_{i,j,\kappa}}$$

- 3. **Merge image feature** with randomly initialized item vector (we use element-wise multiplication) $\mathbf{q}_j^* = MERGE(\mathbf{q}_j, IMAGE_j)$
- 4. **Predict user-item ratings** by maximizing the cross-entropy

$$\hat{y}_{ij} = PREDICT(p_i, q_j^*) \quad l_1 = \log \prod_{(i,j)} (\hat{y}_{ij})^{y_{ij}} (1 - \hat{y}_{ij})^{1-y_{ij}} - \lambda \|\Theta\|_F^2$$

Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Incorporating the Text Signal

- People comment on image features that they care about in their textual reviews



A

★★★★★ Great material, loose fit around the waist

By Maureen Button on November 2, 2017

Size: Medium/US 8-10 | Color: Black | Verified Purchase

Great material, loose fit around the waist. *Nice wide neck opening, very stylish looking.*

B

★★★★★ I absolutely love this tunic

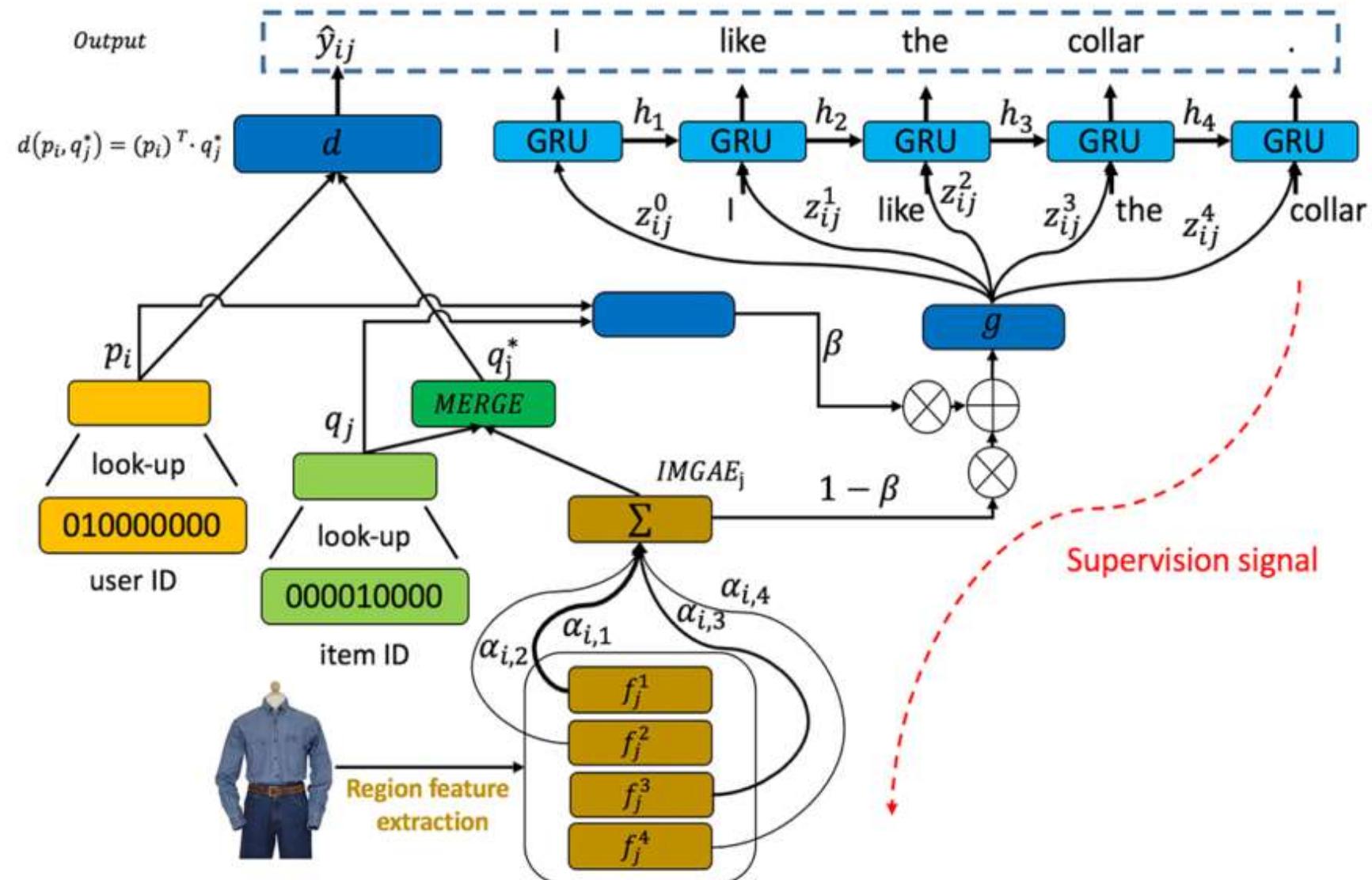
By Amazon Customer on November 30, 2017

Size: Small/US 4-6 | Color: Wine | Verified Purchase

The M fits more like a tunic where I'm fine wearing tights/leggings underneath. Nice quality, incredibly soft (especially the blue one) and *really nice pocket size*. Received numerous compliments on this.

Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Review-Enhanced VECF



Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Experiments

- Recommendation accuracy

Table 2: Statistics of the datasets.

| Datasets | #Users | #Items | #Interactions | Density | #Words |
|----------|--------|--------|---------------|---------|--------|
| Men | 643 | 2454 | 6359 | 0.403% | 21600 |
| Women | 570 | 3346 | 7640 | 0.401% | 17614 |

| Dataset | Men | | | Women | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Measure@5(%) | F_1 | HR | NDCG | F_1 | HR | NDCG |
| BPR | 1.209 | 3.901 | 0.740 | 0.897 | 3.342 | 0.611 |
| HFT | 1.242 | 4.243 | 0.757 | 0.915 | 3.371 | 0.631 |
| VBPR | 1.361 | 4.261 | 0.773 | 0.929 | 3.402 | 0.648 |
| NRT | 1.399 | 4.469 | 0.802 | 0.952 | 3.527 | 0.674 |
| JRL | 1.424* | 4.703* | 0.813* | 0.967* | 3.542* | 0.686* |
| Re-CF | 1.370 | 4.364 | 0.781 | 0.937 | 3.451 | 0.651 |
| VECF | 1.378 | 4.373 | 0.791 | 0.948 | 3.523 | 0.669 |
| Re-VECF | 1.442 | 4.803 | 0.846 | 0.985 | 3.587 | 0.712 |

Recommendation
modelExplanation
method

Experiments

- Evaluation of visual explanations

- Use crowd sourcing (Amazon MTurk) to label the images
 - Worker is asked to identify the top 5 relevant regions given an image and the corresponding review.
 - Each image is labeled by at least two worker
 - Keep the common regions
 - Evaluate the identified regions by our algorithm

| Method | Top-5 | | Top-10 | |
|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| | $F_1(\%)$ | NDCG(%) | $F_1(\%)$ | NDCG(%) |
| Random | 3.22 | 8.24 | 7.41 | 11.46 |
| VECF | 6.70 | 17.37 | 10.38 | 16.40 |
| Re-VECF | 8.35 | 20.53 | 12.99 | 19.95 |

- Though identified region may not be the exact true region, they are usually very close

Embedded Methods

- Most embedded methods are feature-based
 - Features are usually parts from the auxiliary information (review, images)
 - It fits well with existing recommendation models (can even improve accuracy)

- Types of features

- Phrases
- Sentences
- Images



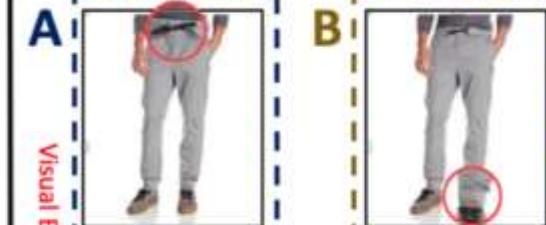
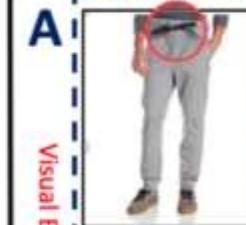
"The **fresh spring rolls** came with peanut sauce that seemed home made (nice touch) and the fried imperial rolls came with the usual fish sauce dip which tasted full flavored vs a watered down version." in 2 reviews



"The **lemongrass chicken** in the dry vermicelli noodle was a winner and we enjoyed the apps as well." in 2 reviews



Recommended Items

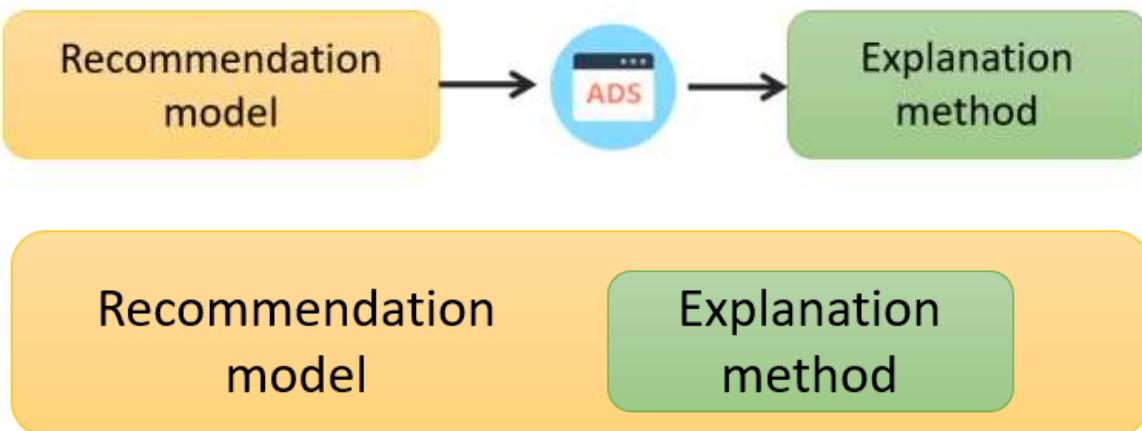


A

Visual Explanation

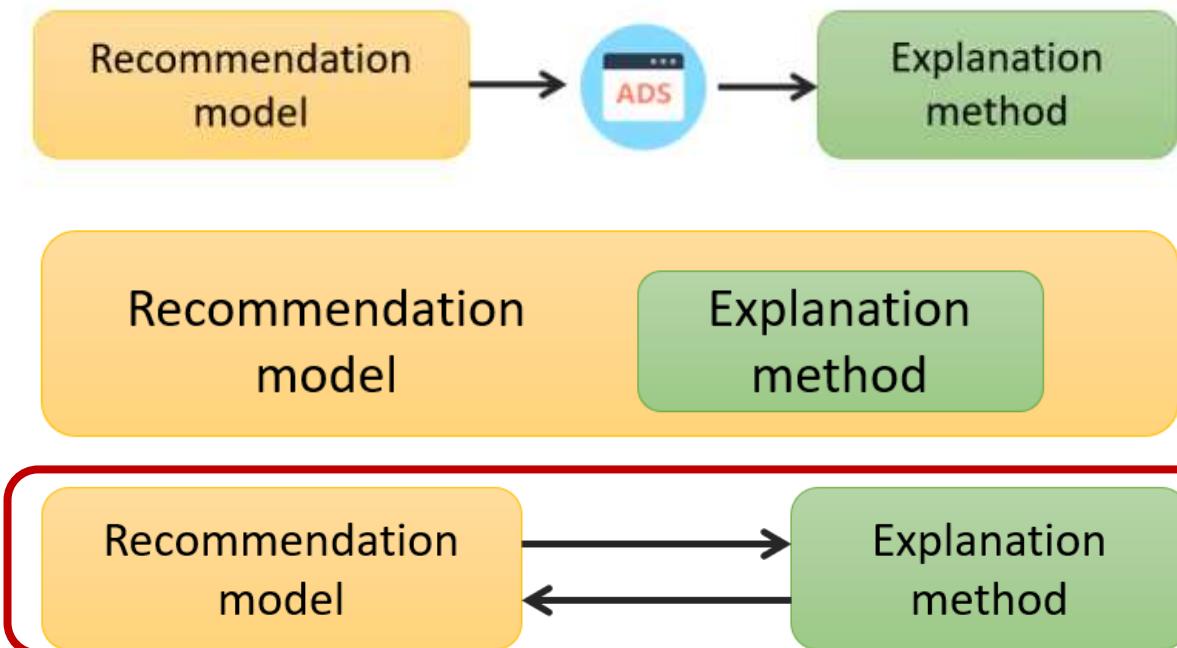


Comparison of Pipelines



| | Model explainability | Presentation quality | Model agnostic |
|----------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Post-hoc | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Embedded | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |

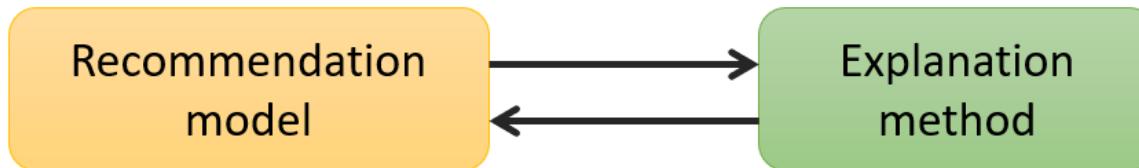
Comparison of Pipelines



| | Model explainability | Presentation quality | Model agnostic |
|----------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Post-hoc | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Embedded | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Wrapper | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Our Pipeline

Our Wrapper Method



A Reinforcement Learning Framework for Explainable Recommendation

Xiting Wang
Microsoft Research Asia
xitwan@microsoft.com

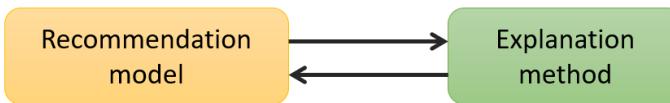
Yiru Chen
Peking University
chen1ru@pku.edu.cn

Jie Yang
Tsinghua University
yangj16@mails.tsinghua.edu.cn

Le Wu
Hefei University of Technology
lewu@hfut.edu.cn

Zhengtao Wu
University of Science and Technology of China
wzt@mail.ustc.edu.cn

Xing Xie
Microsoft Research Asia
xing.xie@microsoft.com



Problem Definition

- **Input**

- User set U , $u \in U$ is a user ----- u : user ID and/or some side information
- Item set V , $v \in V$ is an item ----- $v = (i, l_1, l_2, \dots, l_m)$
- A recommendation model to be explained $f(u, v)$ i : item ID l_j : interpretable component

- **Output**

- Explanation $z = (z_1, z_2, \dots, z_m)$
- $z_j = 1$ The j th interpretable component is selected
- $z_j = 0$ The j th interpretable component is not selected

EFM: phrases like “图像-清晰”

NARRE: a user review

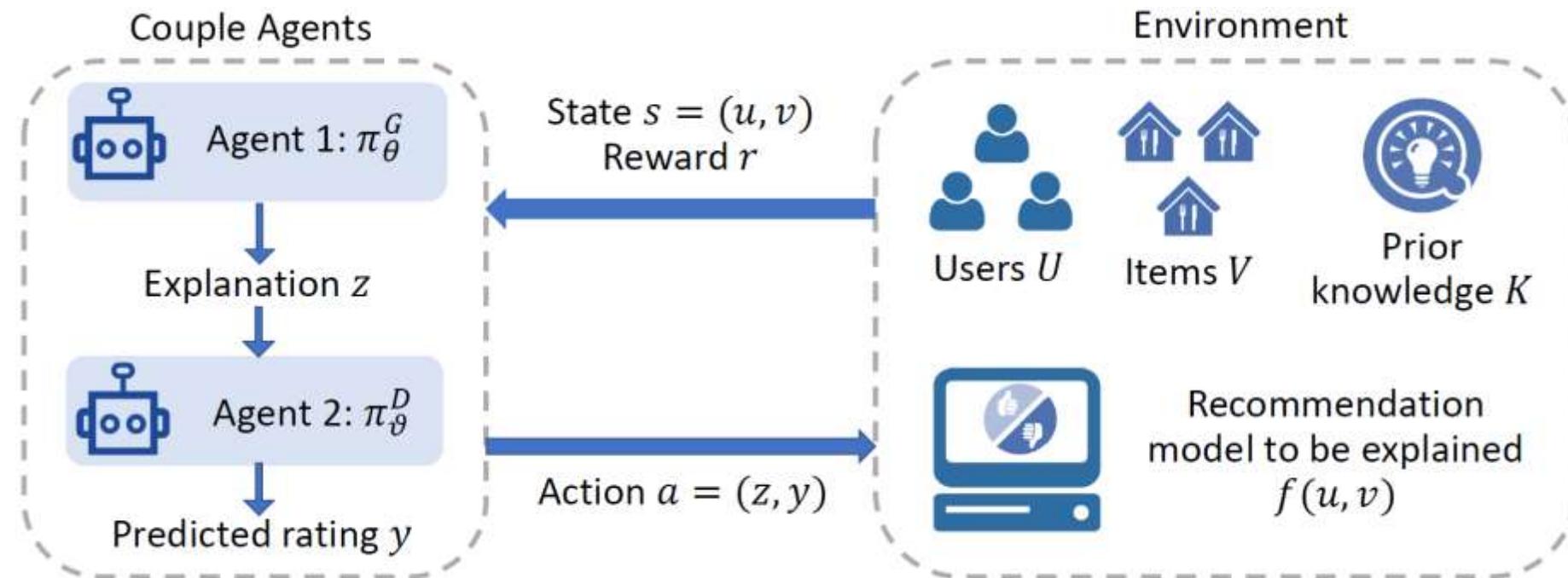
Re-VECF: part of an image

Can also be: key features of an item, like five-star rating



Reinforcement Learning Framework

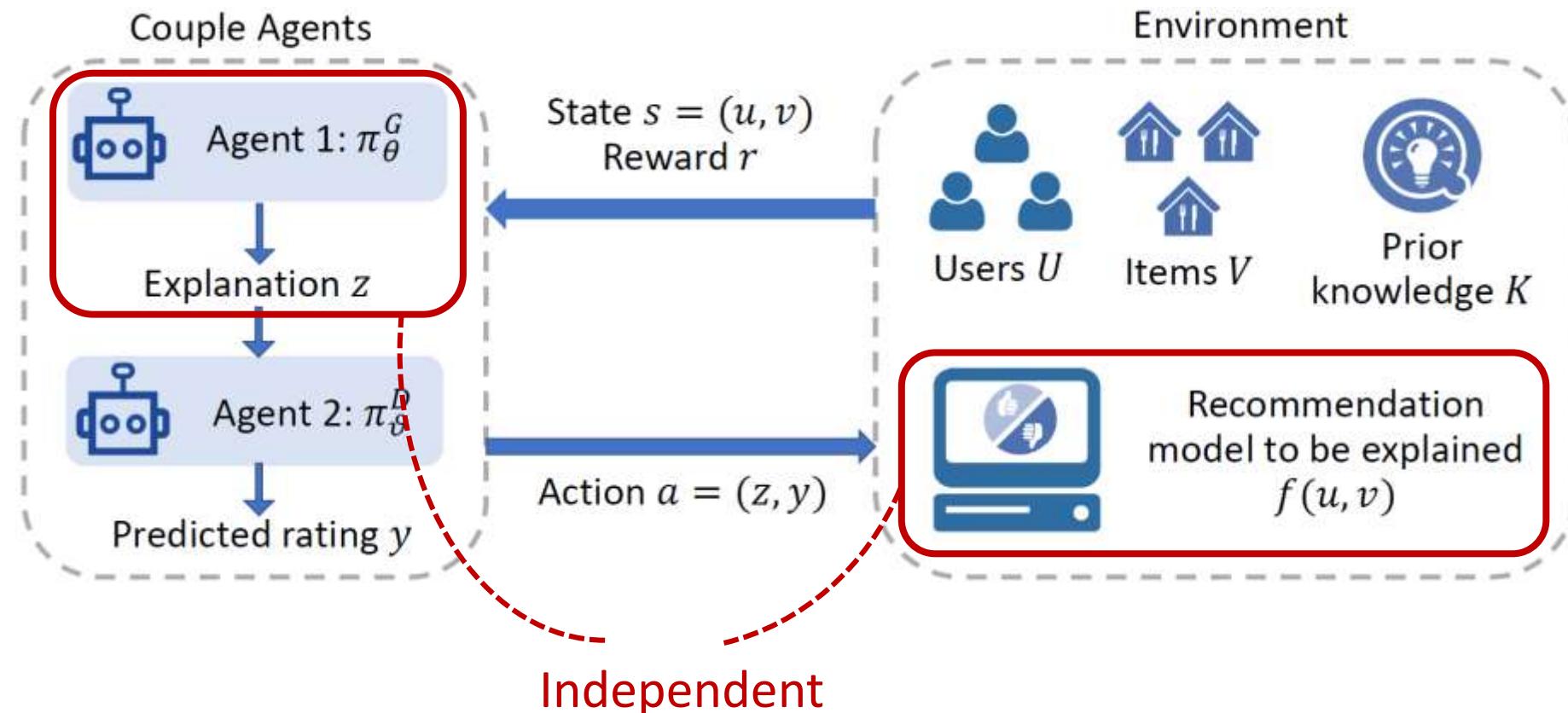
- Advantages: model-agnostic, model-explainability, presentation quality

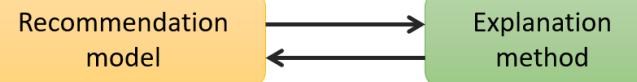




Reinforcement Learning Framework

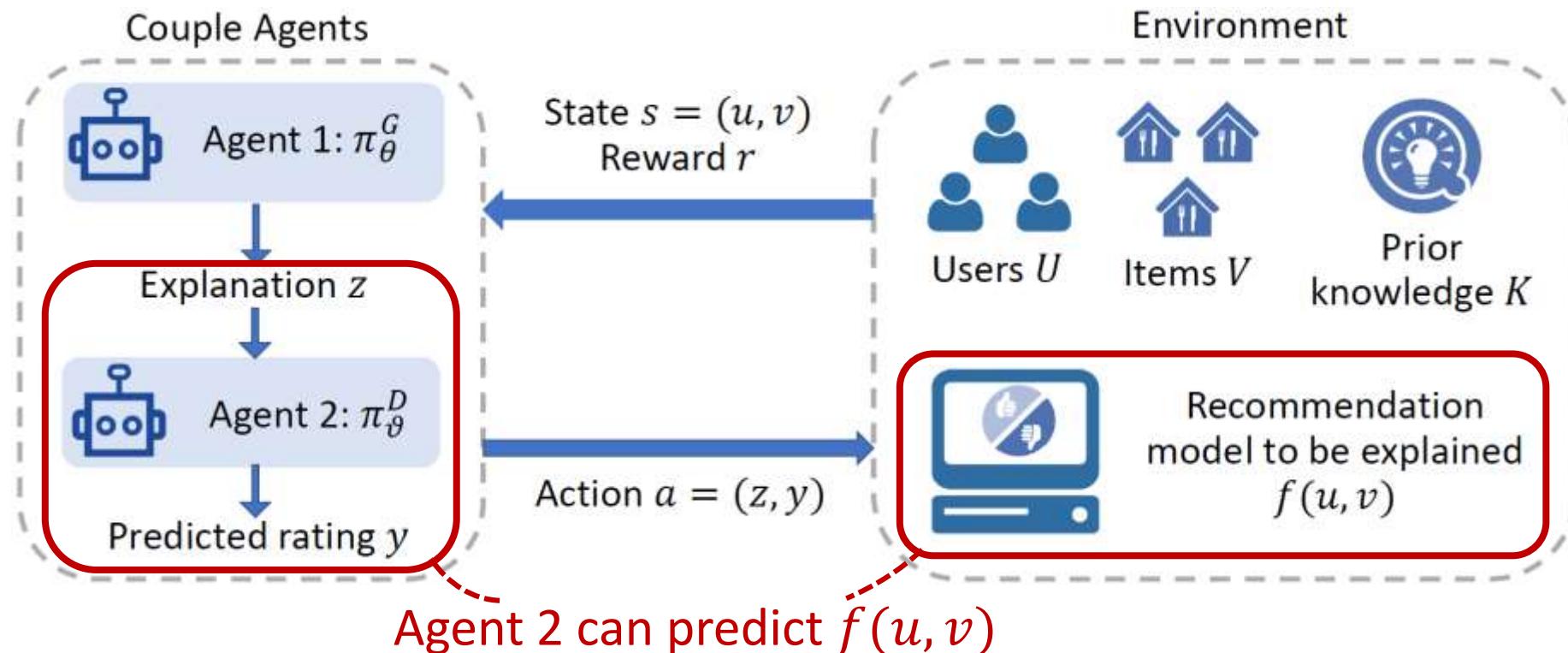
- Advantages: **model-agnostic**, model-explainability, presentation quality





Reinforcement Learning Framework

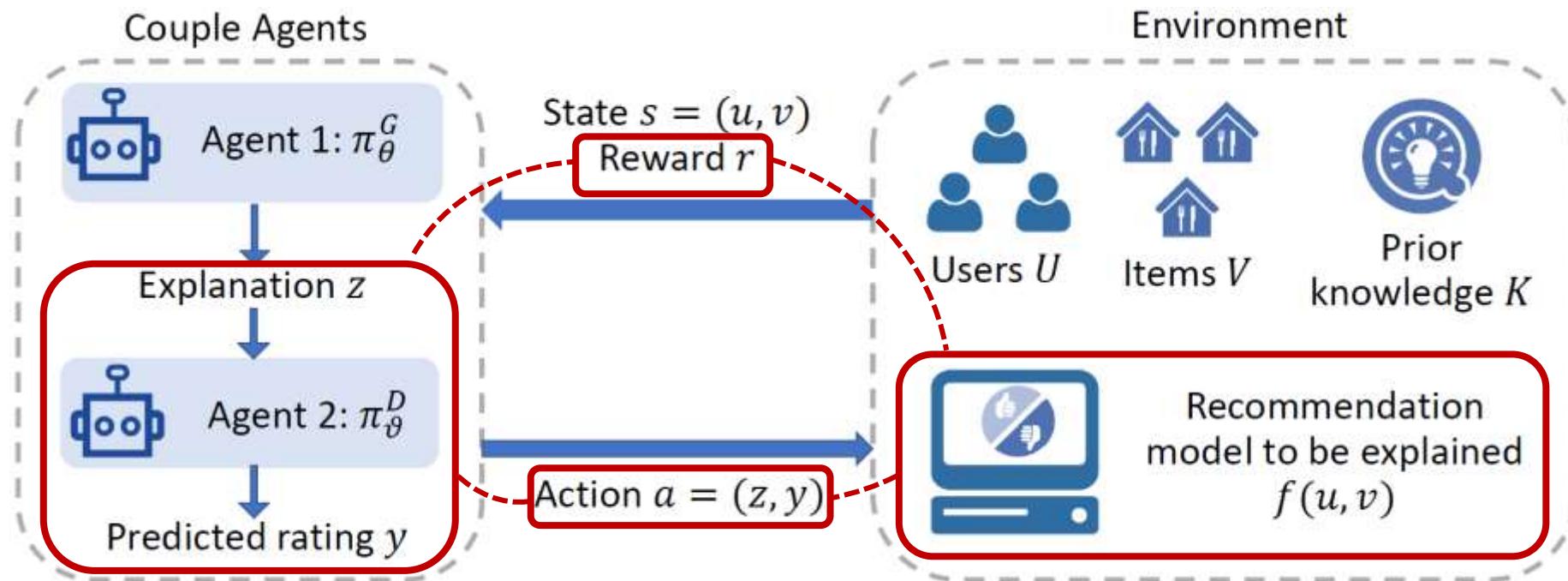
- Advantages: model-agnostic, **model-explainability**, presentation quality





Reinforcement Learning Framework

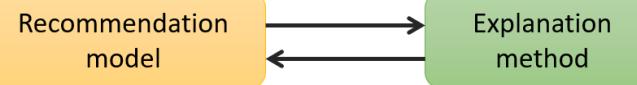
- Advantages: model-agnostic, **model-explainability**, presentation quality



Agent 2 can predict $f(u, v)$

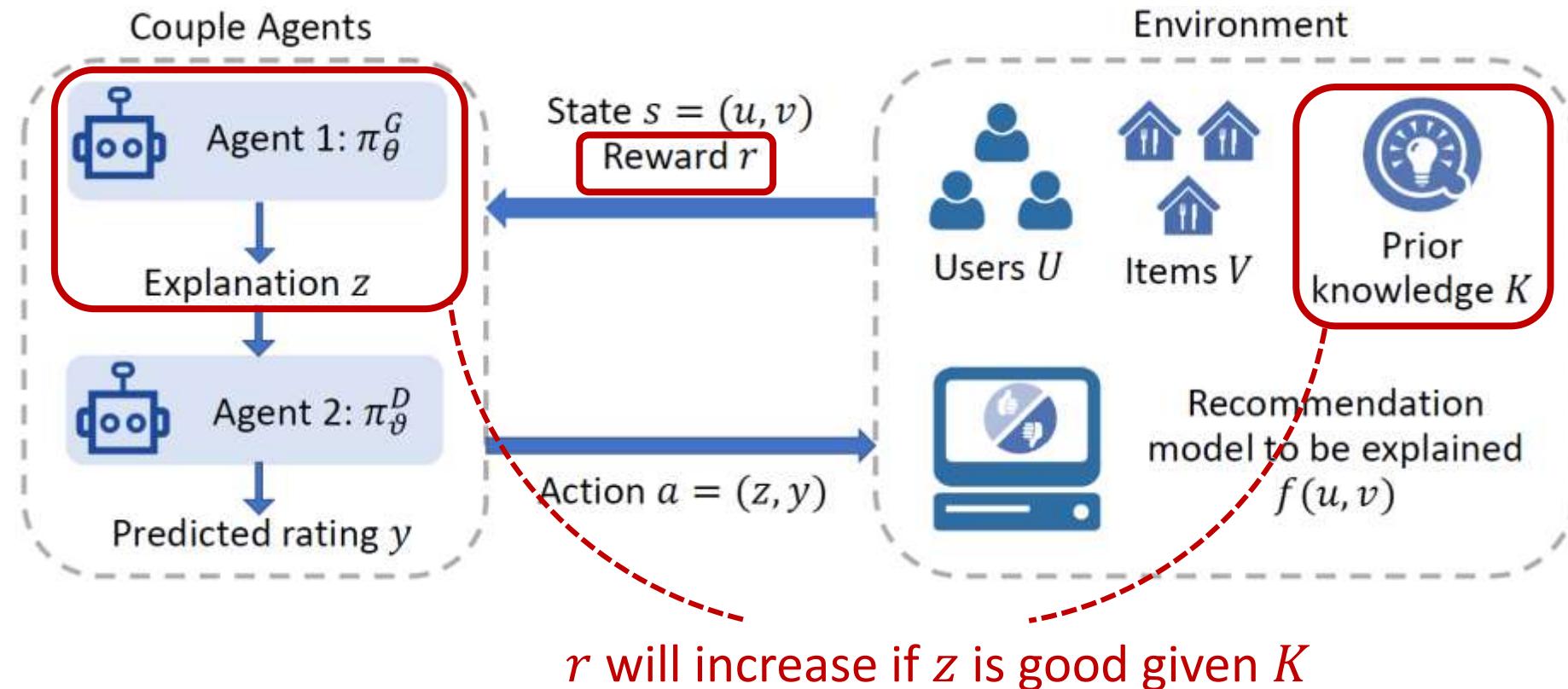
$$r = \mathcal{L}(f(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}), y) + \Omega(z)$$

$$\mathcal{L}(f(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}), y) = -(y - f(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}))^2$$



Reinforcement Learning Framework

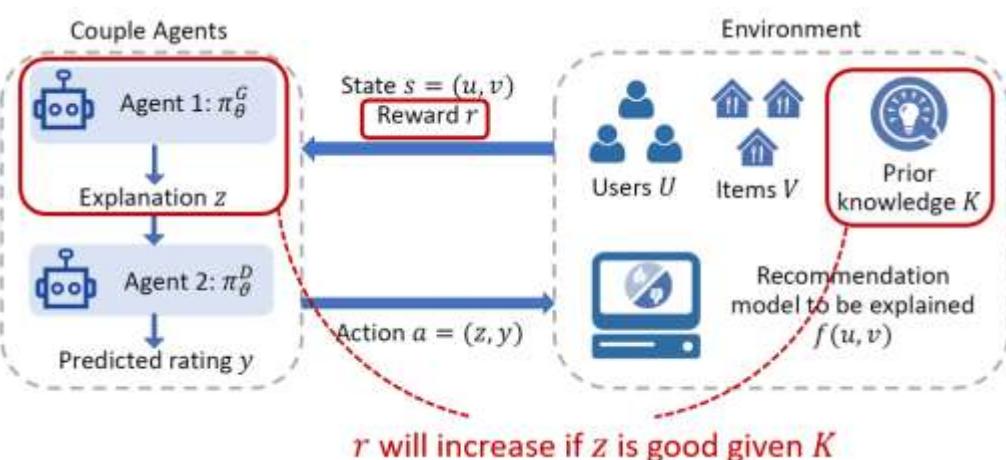
- Advantages: model-agnostic, model-explainability, **presentation quality**





Reinforcement Learning Framework

- Advantages: model-agnostic, model-explainability, **presentation quality**



$$r = \mathcal{L}(f(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}), y) + \Omega(\mathbf{z})$$

$$\Omega(\mathbf{z}) = \lambda_r \Omega_r(\mathbf{z}) + \lambda_c \Omega_c(\mathbf{z})$$

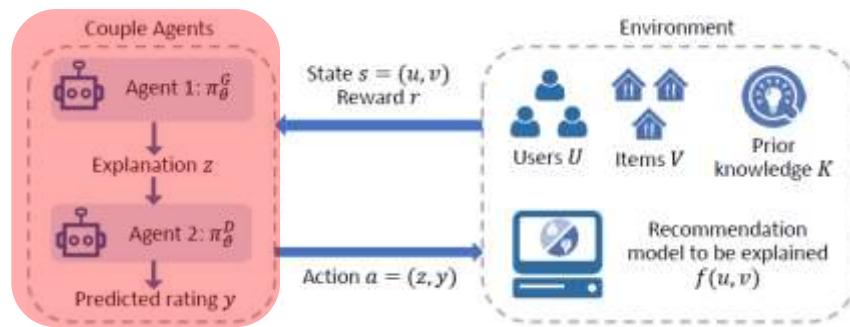
Readability

$$\Omega_r(\mathbf{z}) = -|z^* - \sum_{j=1}^m z_j| - \lambda_b \sum_{j=2}^m |z_j - z_{j-1}|$$

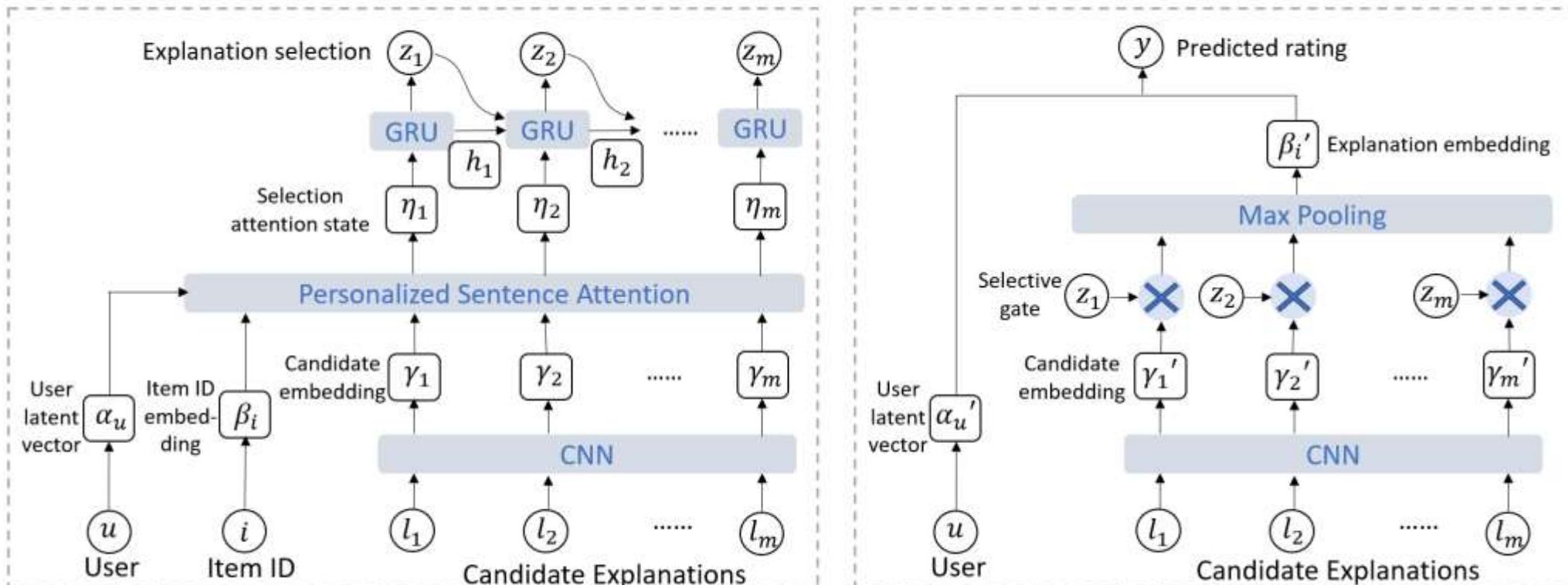
Consistency

$$\Omega_c(\mathbf{z}) = \left(\frac{\sum_{j=1}^m z_j \varphi(\mathbf{l}_j)}{\sum_{j=1}^m z_j} - \bar{\varphi} \right) (f(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) - \bar{f})$$

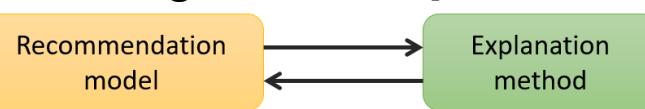
Couple Agents



$$\text{Agent 1: } \pi_\theta^G(z, u, v) = p(z|u, v, \theta)$$



Sentence-level Explanation



Optimization Goal

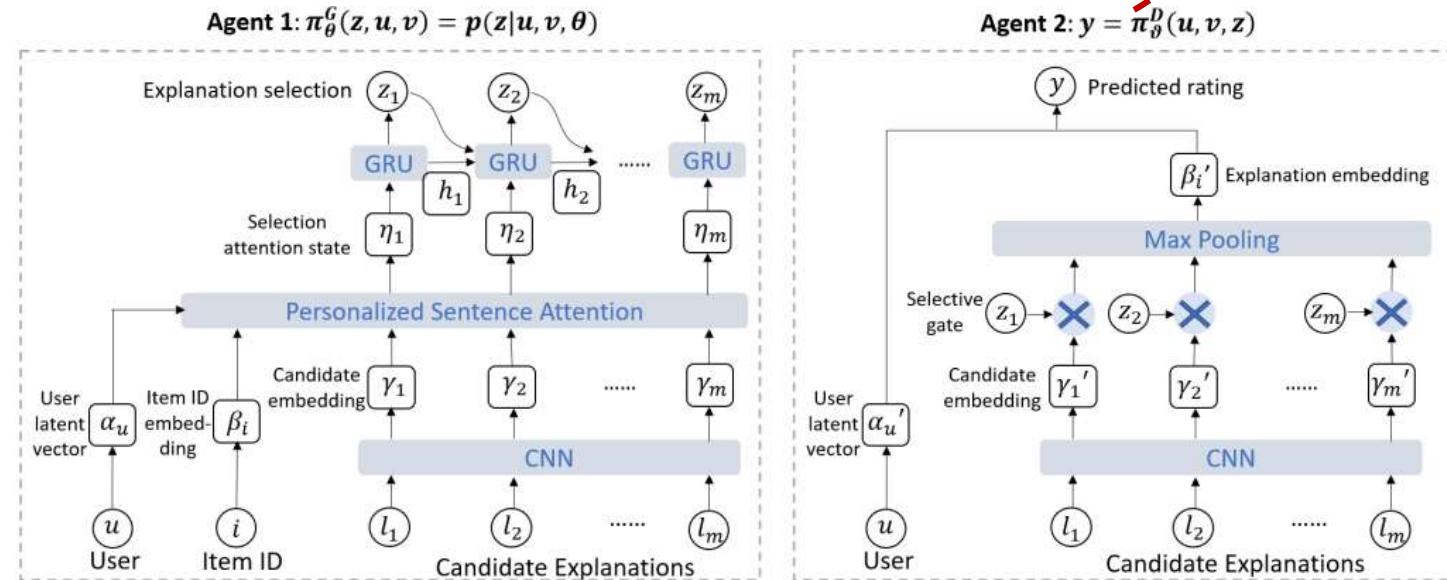
- Maximizing expected reward

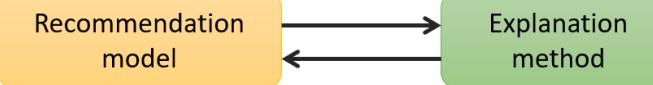
$$\arg \max_{\theta, \vartheta} \sum_{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}} E_{z \sim p(\cdot | \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \theta)} [\mathcal{L}(f(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}), \pi_{\vartheta}^D(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, z)) + \Omega(z)].$$

Reward r

Model-explainability

Presentation quality





Optimization Method

- Doubly Stochastic Policy Gradient

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \nabla_{\theta} E_{z \sim p(\cdot | u, v, \theta)} \psi_{\vartheta}(u, v, z) \\
 \approx & \nabla_{\theta} \sum_{z'} p(z' | u, v, \theta) \psi_{\vartheta}(u, v, z') \\
 \text{Agent 1} = & \sum_{z'} \nabla_{\theta} p(z' | u, v, \theta) \psi_{\vartheta}(u, v, z') \\
 = & \sum_{z'} p(z' | u, v, \theta) \nabla_{\theta} \log p(z' | u, v, \theta) \psi_{\vartheta}(u, v, z') \\
 \approx & E_{z \sim p(\cdot | u, v, \theta)} \nabla_{\theta} \log p(z | u, v, \theta) \psi_{\vartheta}(u, v, z).
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \nabla_{\vartheta} E_{z \sim p(\cdot | u, v, \theta)} \psi_{\vartheta}(u, v, z) \\
 = & E_{z \sim p(\cdot | u, v, \theta)} \nabla_{\vartheta} \mathcal{L}(f(u, v), \pi_{\vartheta}^D(u, v, z)).
 \end{aligned}$$

Offline Evaluation

Explaining different recommendation models trained on the **Amazon_Toys_and_Games** dataset. Here NMF, PMF, SVD++, and CDL are recommendation models to be explained. Larger M_c and M_e indicate better consistency and explainability, respectively.

| | M_c | | | | | M_e | | | | |
|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | NMF | PMF | SVD++ | CDL | GT | NMF | PMF | SVD++ | CDL | GT |
| Random | 0.006 | 0.007 | 0.035 | 0.010 | 0.030 | -1.329 | -1.046 | -0.150 | -1.080 | -0.981 |
| NARRE | 0.012 | 0.022 | 0.038 | 0.043 | 0.048 | -1.271 | -1.032 | -0.142 | -0.967 | -0.927 |
| Ours | 0.025 | 0.028 | 0.048 | 0.079 | 0.155 | -1.234 | -0.956 | -0.130 | -0.956 | -0.903 |

Explaining different recommendation models trained on the **Yelp_2018_LasVegas** dataset. Here NMF, PMF, SVD++, CDL, and GT are recommendation models to be explained. Larger M_c and M_e indicate better consistency and explainability, respectively.

| | M_c | | | | | M_e | | | | |
|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | NMF | PMF | SVD++ | CDL | GT | NMF | PMF | SVD++ | CDL | GT |
| Random | -0.030 | -0.030 | -0.031 | 0.012 | 0.007 | -0.478 | -0.287 | -0.266 | -0.517 | -1.488 |
| NARRE | -0.015 | -0.000 | 0.018 | 0.031 | 0.038 | -0.448 | -0.266 | -0.239 | -0.482 | -1.424 |
| Ours | 0.018 | 0.037 | 0.041 | 0.227 | 0.168 | -0.421 | -0.258 | -0.232 | -0.460 | -1.380 |

M_c : presentation quality

M_e : explainability

Offline Evaluation

| | Amazon_Toys_and_Games | Yelp_2018_LasVegas |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| #users | 19,412 | 23,196 |
| #items | 11,924 | 13,433 |
| #reviews and ratings | 167,597 | 568,454 |

Comparison of M_c and M_e at different explanation lengths (the **Amazon_Toys_and_Games** dataset).

| | M_c | | | | | M_e | | | | |
|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | $z^* = 1$ | $z^* = 2$ | $z^* = 3$ | $z^* = 4$ | $z^* = 5$ | $z^* = 1$ | $z^* = 2$ | $z^* = 3$ | $z^* = 4$ | $z^* = 5$ |
| Random | 0.030 | 0.013 | 0.029 | 0.037 | 0.037 | -0.981 | -0.991 | -0.973 | -0.962 | -0.995 |
| NARRE | 0.048 | 0.064 | 0.089 | 0.110 | 0.133 | -0.927 | -0.919 | -0.910 | -0.911 | -0.906 |
| Ours | 0.155 | 0.142 | 0.140 | 0.160 | 0.161 | -0.903 | -0.901 | -0.898 | -0.898 | -0.894 |

Comparison of M_c and M_e at different explanation lengths (the **Yelp_2018_LasVegas** dataset).

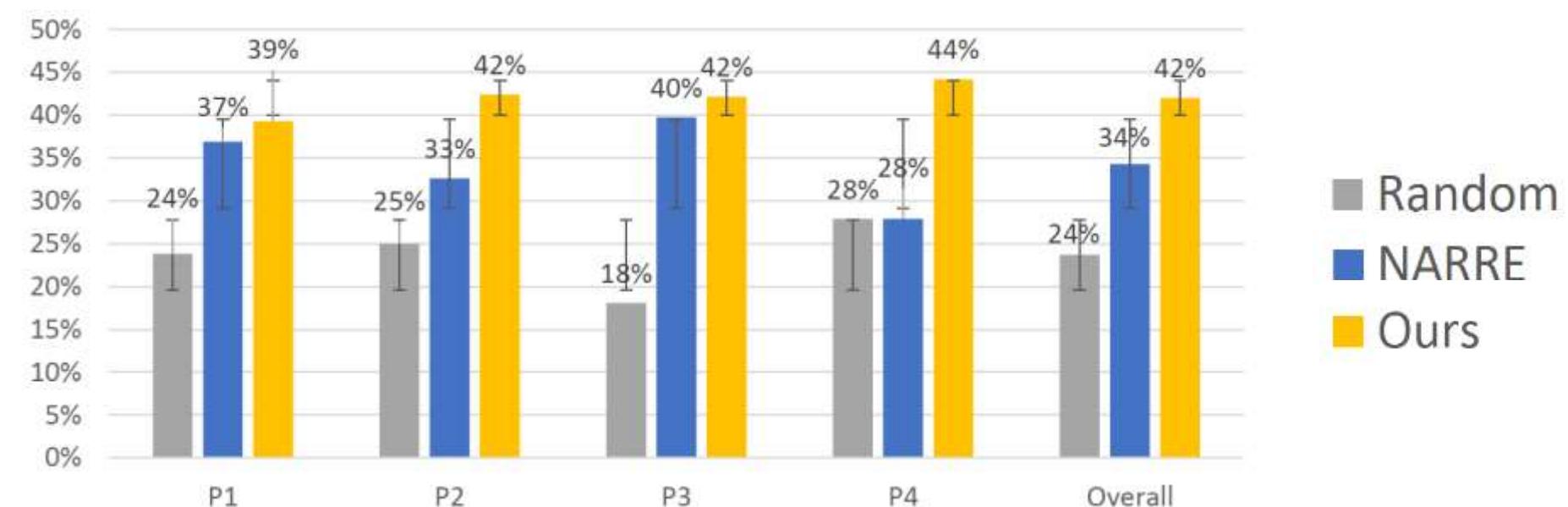
| | M_c | | | | | M_e | | | | |
|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | $z^* = 1$ | $z^* = 2$ | $z^* = 3$ | $z^* = 4$ | $z^* = 5$ | $z^* = 1$ | $z^* = 2$ | $z^* = 3$ | $z^* = 4$ | $z^* = 5$ |
| Random | 0.007 | 0.011 | 0.012 | 0.032 | 0.030 | -1.488 | -1.405 | -1.403 | -1.400 | -1.406 |
| NARRE | 0.038 | 0.035 | 0.044 | 0.057 | 0.054 | -1.424 | -1.390 | -1.377 | -1.378 | -1.372 |
| Ours | 0.168 | 0.172 | 0.183 | 0.188 | 0.160 | -1.380 | -1.377 | -1.370 | -1.366 | -1.353 |

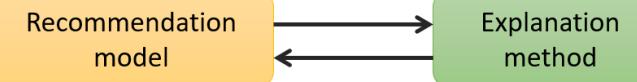


Evaluation with Human Subjects

- Ask the participants to choose the explanations that are **most useful** in helping them decide whether they will go to the restaurants

Frequency of a method (Random, NARRE, or ours) being considered the most useful.
We show the results of individual participants (P1 to P4) as well as the overall summarization.





Evaluation with Human Subjects

Frequent words in reviews:

P3 **chicken, buffet, portions, sushi, beef**

P4 **service, pizza, server, table, clean**

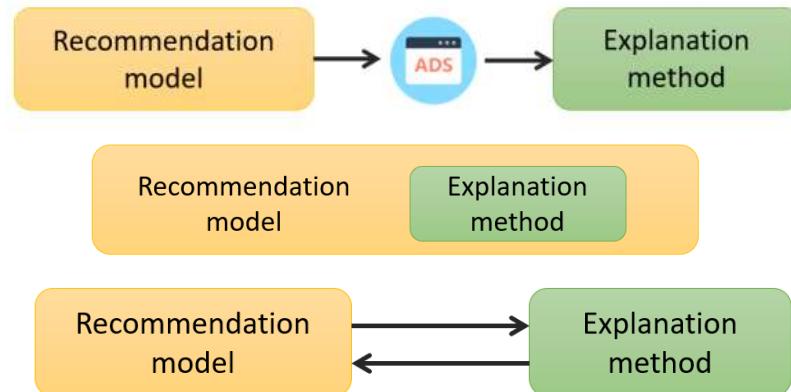
| | NARRE | Ours - P3 | Ours - P4 |
|--------|---|---|--|
| Item 1 | By the way, try to park at the side of gold coast farthest from the rio if you want to have a shorter walk, which is healthier than it sounds due to less secondhand smoke exposure. | The chicken 's feet was tasty, so were the har gow . | In the past we had trouble communicating with the staff because they usually speak in their own language , this last time though it seems they have hired more English speaking staff and it was considerably easier to order . |
| Item 2 | If you need a fajita , your search should end here. | They came with red & green peppers and onions . First, I thought the salsa was delicious, and i appreciated it was actually spicy versus the mild you typically receive. | Overall, the service throughout our meal was swift & friendly. |
| Item 3 | Unfortunately, after living in the city for a few years and trying a lot of wonderful food that this city has to offer, we returned for a visit and I was less than impressed. | It was the perfect burger, cheesy with just the right amount of dressing and chips! | At least put the stuff in a fancy container? |

■ Words related to food

■ Words related to services

Conclusion

- Definition and goals
- Forms of explanations
- Explainable recommendation pipelines



| | Model explainability | Presentation quality | Model agnostic |
|----------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Post-hoc | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ |
| Embedded | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Wrapper | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Amit Sharma and 5 of your friends like this.



Vampire Weekend

(d) Good Friend & Count



Thanks!