

BU CS506– Project 1– Fall 2017

November 17, 2017

Due date: Dec 1, 2017 at 5:00pm

Description: In this assignment, we will be working with the Amazon dataset. You will build a system that predicts the star ratings associated with reviews in Fine Foods on Amazon using the available features. We will be using an online platform (In class Kaggle) to host this competition. Your grades will be determined by your performance on the predictive tasks as well as a brief written report about the approaches you took.

Evaluation: Your submission will be evaluated using the Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE). This metric measures the square root of the mean of the square of all the differences between values. You can find more information [here](#).

Data: For details on the data files please check the *Data* page of the Kaggle competition. There, you will also find a detailed description of the files.

Writeup: In addition to submitting your solution online, you need to provide us with a 2-page writeup that describes the algorithm you have implemented and the special tricks you used in order to make it work (or improve). It is important that you show us your thought procedure. Also, describe your strategy for selecting that particular algorithm and how you did your offline evaluation. Note that some sort of offline evaluation is required.

Your writeup should not exceed 2 pages under any circumstance, else it will not be graded.

Instructions: If you do not have an account for Kaggle, you will need to signup. Go to <https://inclass.kaggle.com> and use your BU email. Then, visit the following [site](#) you will find one active competition with the name BU-CS506-Fall2017. Take part and submit solutions for this competition. You should upload your predicted solution as a .csv file in the *Submit Predictions* link. We suggest that you do not just upload your final solution, but instead to also submit your intermediate ones so that you can evaluate your improvement and standing. In order to see your solution's score as well as your ranking, visit the *Leaderboard*.

If you encounter any problems, please send an email at smnikol@bu.edu.

Privacy and confidentiality (Important): Please email your Kaggle username to smnikol@bu.edu and clearly mention it on your project writeup as well.