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# CSE 434 Machine Learning Food Recommendation System

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### 1 Introduction

The increasing diversity of culinary options and growing interest in personalized food suggestions have fueled the development of recommendation systems within the food industry. These systems utilize algorithms to provide users with tailored recommendations based on individual preferences. By analyzing user data, they identify patterns and deliver results catering to specific needs and interests. In today's digital age, where users face information overload, recommendation systems play a crucial role in simplifying choices and facilitating informed decision-making.

Food recommender systems analyze user preferences, dietary needs, and other relevant factors to generate personalized recommendations. These systems enhance decision-making and improve user satisfaction by aligning suggestions with individual tastes and requirements. Combining data-driven methodologies and user-centric design, they have been successfully implemented across various domains, including e-commerce, streaming services, and food delivery applications. Within the food sector, these systems streamline selection from a vast array of options by considering dietary restrictions, nutritional needs, and user feedback.

# 2 Methodology

# 2.1 Data Preprocessing

The dataset comprises four files:

- 1. **pp\_recipes:** Contains recipe information (ID, name tokens, ingredient tokens, etc.).
- 2. **pp\_users:** Contains user information (techniques, items, ratings, etc.).
- 3. raw\_interactions: Stores user-recipe interactions (user ID, recipe ID, date, rating, review).
- 4. raw\_recipes: Contains detailed recipe information (name, ID, preparation time, etc.).

Preprocessing steps:

• Irrelevant Column Removal: Removed unnecessary columns from each DataFrame.

- Duplicate Removal: Removed duplicate rows.
- Nutritional Information Splitting: Split the nutrition column into individual components.
- Data Cleaning: Cleaned the columns to improve data quality
- Active User Filtering: Filtered users with fewer than 10 interactions.
- Normalization: Normalized the nutritional columns.
- Outlier Removal: Removed existing outliers to improve data quality.
- ID Mapping: Mapped user and recipe IDs to continuous indices.
- Interaction Data Preparation: Created arrays for the sparse interaction matrix.
- Sparse Matrix Creation: Created a sparse matrix to store ratings.



Table 1: Data Overview After Preprocessing

# 3 Recommendation System

# 3.1 Recommendation Techniques

This system uses different recommendation techniques for new and existing users:

#### 3.1.1 New Users

- Nutrient-Based Recommendations: Recommends recipes based on general dietary preferences (e.g., high-protein, low-carb) by analyzing nutrient profiles and using cosine similarity to compare recipes based on their nutritional composition.
- Top-Rated Recipes: Recommends the most popular recipes based on aggregated user ratings, leveraging collaborative filtering.

#### 3.1.2 Existing Users

- Nutrient-Based Recommendations: Similar to new users, but fine-tuned based on the user's past preferences and dietary goals using cosine similarity.
- Top-Rated Recipes: Recommends popular recipes based on overall user ratings using collaborative filtering.
- Preference-Based Recommendations: Personalized recommendations based on the user's history of liked/rated recipes, using collaborative filtering with K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) to find recipes liked by similar users.

# 3.2 Algorithms and Metrics

#### 3.2.1 Cosine Similarity

Cosine similarity measures the similarity between items or user profiles by calculating the cosine of the angle between two vectors representing their features (e.g., nutrient composition, user preferences):

Cosine Similarity = 
$$\frac{A \cdot B}{\|A\| \|B\|} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} A_i B_i}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} A_i^2} \cdot \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} B_i^2}}$$
 (1)

where A and B are vectors representing items or user preferences.

#### 3.2.2 K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN)

KNN identifies the nearest neighbors based on similarity metrics like cosine similarity, ensuring recommendations are derived from similar users or items.

## 3.3 Recommendation Logic

The system follows this logic:

- 1. **ID Mapping:** Maps IDs to continuous indices.
- 2. Approximate Nearest Neighbors (KNN): Finds similar users.
- 3. **Top-Rated Recommendations:** Recommends highest-rated recipes (Figure 1).

```
def recommend_top_rated_recipes(num_recommendations=5):
    """

    Recommend a random selection of top-rated recipes with average ratings >= 4.
    """

# Calculate the average rating for each recipe
recipe_ratings = df_merged_sorted.groupby('recipe_id')['rating'].mean()
# Filter recipes with an average rating of 4 or higher
top_recipes = recipe_ratings[recipe_ratings >= 4].index
# Filter the dataset to include only recipes with high average ratings
top_rated_recipes = df_merged_sorted[df_merged_sorted['recipe_id'].isin(top_recipes)]
# Remove duplicates to ensure each recipe is listed only once
top_rated_recipes_unique = top_rated_recipes.drop_duplicates(subset=['recipe_id'])
# Select only the required columns
selected_columns = ['recipe_id', 'name', 'rating', 'calories', 'total fat', 'sugar', 'sodium', 'protein', 'saturated fat']
top_rated_recipes_selected = top_rated_recipes_unique[selected_columns]
# Calculate the average rating for each recipe and add it as a new column
top_rated_recipes_selected['average_rating'] = top_rated_recipes_selected.groupby('recipe_id')['rating'].transform('mean')
# Drop the individual rating column and keep the average rating
top_rated_recipes_final = top_rated_recipes_selected.drop(columns=['rating'])
# Select the top 15 rated recipes
top_15_recipes = top_rated_recipes_final.head(15)
# Randomly sample the specified number of recipes from the top 15
recommendations = top_15_recipes.sample(n=num_recommendations, random_state=None)
return recommendations
```

Figure 1: Code for top-rated recipes

4. **Nutrition-Based Recommendations:** Recommends recipes based on nutritional preferences (Figure 2).

```
def recommend_recipes_based_on_nutrition(preferences, num_recommendations=5):
    if len(preferences) != len(nutrition_columns):
        raise ValueError(f"Expected {len(nutrition_columns)} preferences, got {len(preferences)}")

# Calculate preference scores by computing the Euclidean distance
preference scores = df_merged_sorted[nutrition_columns].apply(
        lambda x: -np.linalg.norm(x - preferences), axis=1
)

# Get the top recommended indices based on preference scores
recommendations = np.argsort(preference_scores)[-num_recommendations:][::-1]
# Select the recommended recipes from the dataset
recommended_recipes = df_merged_sorted.iloc[recommendations]
# Select only the required columns
selected_columns = ['recipe_id', 'name', 'rating', 'calories', 'total fat', 'sugar', 'sodium', 'protein', 'saturated fat']
recommended_recipes_selected = recommended_recipes[selected_columns]
# Calculate the average rating for each recipe and add it as a new column
recommended_recipes_selected('average_rating') = recommended_recipes_selected.groupby('recipe_id')['rating'].transform('mean')
# Drop the individual rating column and keep the average rating
recommended_recipes_final = recommended_recipes_selected.drop(columns=['rating'])
# Remove duplicates based on recipe_id to ensure unique recommendations
recommended_recipes_final_unique = recommended_recipes_final_uniqu
```

Figure 2: Code for Recommended recipes based on nutritions

5. **Similarity-Based Recommendations:** Recommends recipes based on similar user ratings (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Code for Recommended recipes based on similar user ratings

# 4 Results

#### 4.1 Detailed Evaluation Metrics

The following metrics were computed to evaluate the performance of the model:

• Mean Absolute Error (MAE): **0.9119** 

• Mean Squared Error (MSE): 1.9410

• Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE): 1.3932

• Precision: **0.8827** 

• Recall: 0.9876

• F1-Score: **0.9322** 

# Visualization of Evaluation Metrics

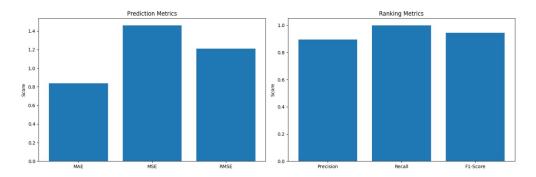


Figure 4: A visual representation of the evaluation metrics.

# **Prediction Statistics**

The statistical summary of the predicted ratings is as follows:

Statistic	Value
Mean Predicted Rating	4.37
Standard Deviation	0.46
Minimum Predicted Rating	0.00
Maximum Predicted Rating	4.42

Table 2: Summary statistics of the predicted ratings.

# 4.2 figure of the output

#### 4.2.1 New User

If the user is new and wants recommendations based on top-rated items (Figure 5):

```
Recommendations based on top-rated recipes:
                                           name calories
   recipe id
                                                           total fat
17
       17387
                              pizza breadsticks
                                                 0.000969
              spicy banana fritters zitumbuwa
6
       52077
                                                 0.000275
                                                            0.000349
16
       68986
                                 apricot mousse
                                                 0.000544
                                                            0.000233
14
       14807
                      californian apple crunch 0.000664
                                                            0.001862
2
                  ham and swiss in puff pastry 0.000516
                                                            0.001455
       27789
                sodium
                        protein saturated fat
                                                 average_rating
       sugar
   0.000014
             0.000920
                       0.003663
                                       0.000770
   0.000050
             0.000136
                       0.000916
                                       0.000289
                                                            5.0
   0.000433 0.000375 0.003816
                                       0.000673
                                                            5.0
   0.000229 0.000170 0.000305
                                       0.006349
                                                            5.0
   0.000006 0.000136 0.004731
                                       0.004233
                                                            4.0
```

Figure 5: Snippet answer based on top-rated items

If the user is new and wants recommendations based on nutrition (Figure 6):

```
Recommendations based on nutritional preferences:
       recipe_id
                                    name calories
                                                    total fat
                                                                  sugar
                    easy caramel frosting 0.005281
455710
          264904
                                                     0.001571
                                                               0.005795
80513
            913 ritz mock apple pie iii 0.003735
                                                     0.002037
                       chocolate lemonade
194823
           81289
                                          0.004060
         sodium protein saturated fat average_rating
455710 0.000750 0.001526
                               0.005195
                                               4.666667
80513
      0.001091
                0.001832
                               0.003271
                                               5.000000
194823
       0.000784
                 0.002747
                               0.002982
                                               4.000000
```

Figure 6: Snippet answer based on nutrition

#### 4.2.2 Existing User

If the user has an ID, one more choice will be added, allowing them to select whether they want recommendations based on top-rated recipes, nutrition, or ratings from other similar users.

If the user is existing and wants recommendations based on ratings from other users (Figure 7):

```
Are you a new user or an existing user? (new/existing): existing
    Enter your user ID: 10
⇒ Would you like recommendations based on:
    1. Nutritional preferences
    2. Top-rated recipes
    3. Similarity between ratings
    Enter your choice (1/2/3): 3
    Recommendations based on similarity between ratings:
           recipe id
    0
               39499 kerrieschotel meat and rice dish flavored wit...
    321011
              365585
                                               lemon dill broiled fish
    321370
              203973
                                                 crunchy chicken salad
    321164
              148569
                                                easy decadent truffles
    321241
               85381
                                             awesome creamy coconut dip
           average_rating calories total fat
                                                  sugar
                                                           sodium
                      5.0 0.001170
                                     0.005541 0.000036 0.003273 0.007631
    321011
                      5.0 0.000425
                                     0.003002 0.000000 0.000614 0.007631
    321370
                      5.0 0.000990
                                     0.010159 0.000039 0.001568 0.009005
                      5.0 0.000178
                                     0.001154 0.000113 0.000000 0.000153
    321164
    321241
                      5.0 0.008605
                                     0.093050 0.003647 0.002796 0.007326
           saturated fat
                0.005818
    321011
                0.001164
    321370
                0.003636
    321164
                0.001600
    321241
                0.151564
```

Figure 7: Snippet answer based on ratings from similar users

# 5 Conclusion

This report details a food recommendation system using content-based and collaborative filtering. The system uses data preprocessing, KNN, and cosine similarity for personalized recommendations. Future work includes more sophisticated filtering, UI improvements, and real-time updates.