

# CMSC5741 Big Data Tech. & Apps.

## Lecture 7: Recommender Systems /

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# The Netflix Problem

- Netflix database
  - About half a million users
  - About 18,000 movies
- People assign ratings to movies
- A sparse matrix

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# The Netflix Problem

- Netflix database
  - Over 480,000 users
  - About 18,000 movies
  - Over 100,00 ratings
- People assign ratings to movies
- A **sparse** matrix
  - Only 1.16% of the full matrix is observed

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# The Netflix Problem

- Netflix database
  - About half a million users
  - About 18,000 movies
- People assign ratings to movies
- A sparse matrix

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**Challenge:**

Complete the “Netflix Matrix”

Many such problems: collaborative filtering, partially filled out surveys ...

# BellKor Recommender System

- **The winner of the Netflix Challenge!**

- **Multi-scale modeling of the data:**

Combine top level, “regional”

modeling of the d

a refined, local vi

Global effects

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Factorization

- **Global:**

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- Overall deviations of users/movies

- **Factorization:**

- Addressing “regional” effects

Collaborative  
filtering

- **Collaborative filtering:**

- Extract local patterns

# Modeling Local & Global Effects

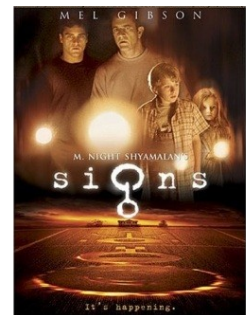
- **Global:**

- Mean movie rating: **3.7 stars**
  - *The Sixth Sense* is **0.5 stars** above avg.
  - Joe rates **0.2 st**
- ⇒ Baseline estimation:**  
*Joe will rate **The Sixth Sense** 4*



- **Local neighborhood (CF/NN):**

- Joe didn't like related movie *Signs*
- **⇒ Final estimate:**  
*Joe will rate **The Sixth Sense** 3.8 stars*



# Outline

- Introduction
- LU Decomposition
- Singular Value Decomposition
- Probabilistic Matrix Factorization
- Non-negative Matrix Factorization
- Recent Development of Matrix Factorization methods in Collaborative Filtering

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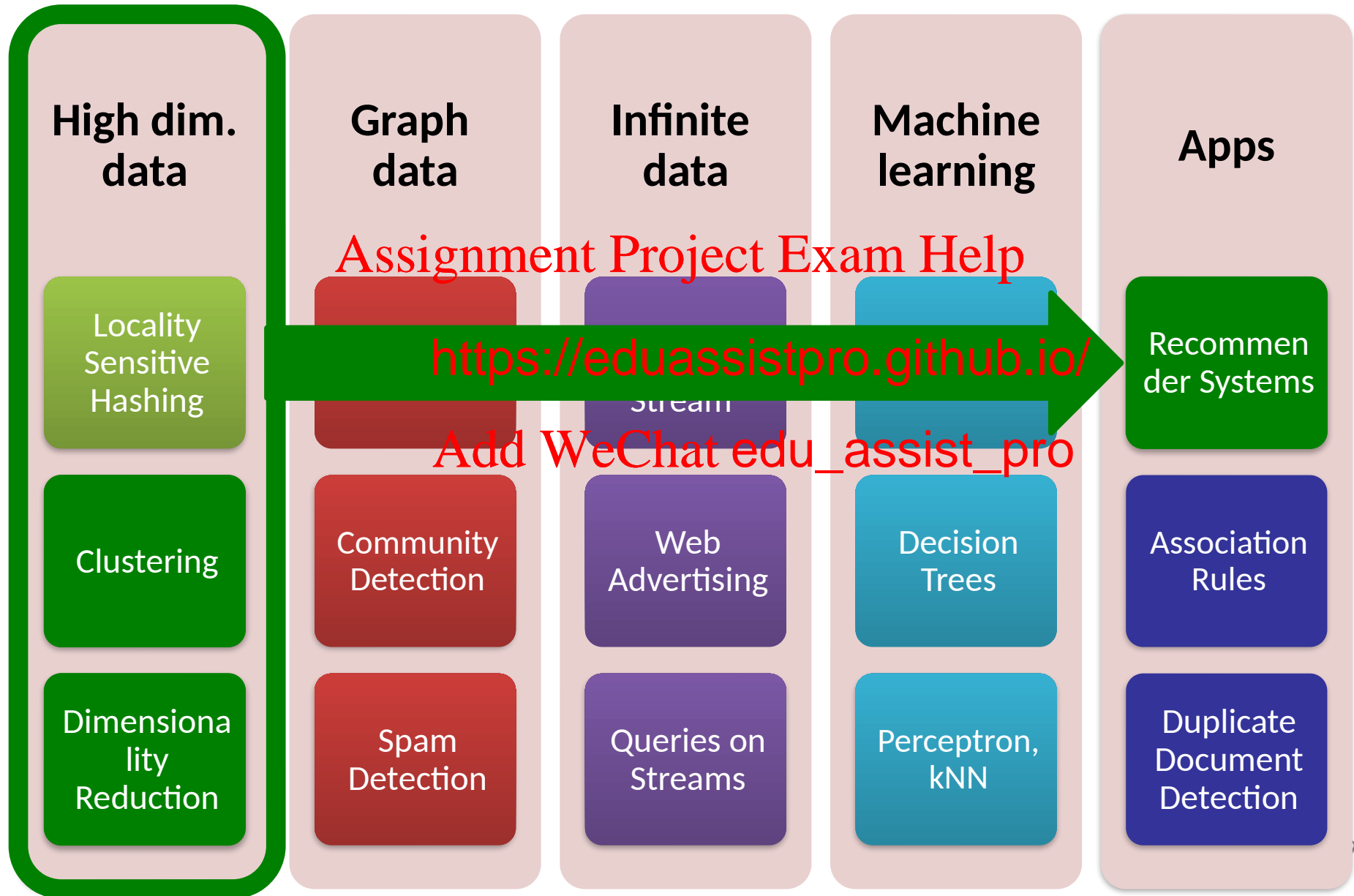
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# High Dimensional Data



# Matrix Completion

- Matrix  $X \in R^{N \times M}$
- Observe some entries
- Can we guess the missing entries?

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Everyone would agree this looks impossible.

# Massive High-dimensional Data

Engineering/scientific applications:  
Unknown matrix often has (approx.) **low rank**.



Images

Dear reader, I want you to ask yourself this question: What caused me to become shy? Yes, I'm talking about your present shyness or any you may have suffered in the past. It's quite possible that your story may have a lot in common with that of Joman, the novel's main character. In this book, which unfolds in a spellbinding atmosphere of suspense, the factors that contribute to Joman's becoming a shy child are recounted in detail. You will see that many factors that contributed to his shyness started or existed before he was even born, and this could be your case as well.

What happened after your shyness took root?

You will see how Joman's shyness interfered with his relationships with other people, with his family life, and in matters as diverse as dating, sex, work, and general well-being.

Throughout most of the book, you will enjoy reading how he managed to overcome his shyness.

Get ready to live through a diversified range of emotions in eleven chapters. The story will grab hold of you in the first few pages and carry you all the way to the end. And there's really nothing to be gained by going directly to the very last page to see how things turn out because the plot presents new elements in each chapter. Although instructive, and even pedagogical in certain aspects, the book tells the saga of the main character and his family.

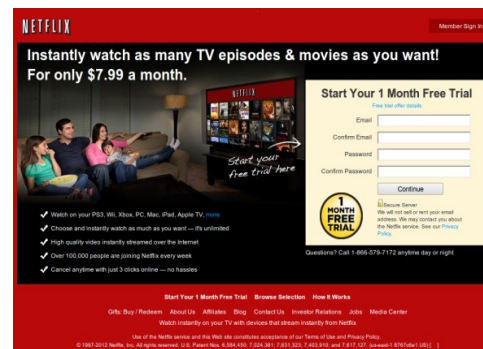
Text

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Videos



Web data

High-  
dimensionality  
but often  
low-dimensional  
structure

# Matrix Recovery Algorithm

Observation:

Try to recover a **lowest complexity (rank)** matrix that agrees with the observation

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Recovery by minimizing (assuming no noise)

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subject to  $\hat{X}_{ij} = X_{ij} \quad (i, j) \in \mathcal{Q}_{obs}$

- **NP hard: not feasible for  $N > 10!$**
- Resort to other approaches
  - Select a low rank  $K$ , and approximate  $X$  by a rank  $K$  matrix  $X'$

# Low Rank Factorization

- Assume  $X$  can be recovered by a rank  $K$  matrix  $X'$
- Then  $X'$  can be factorized into the product of

$$U \in R^{K \times N}, V \in R^{K \times M}$$

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- Let  $\mathcal{E}$  be the loss function

Recovery by rank  $K$  matrix

$$\text{minimize} \quad \sum_{i,j \in \mathcal{Q}_{obs}} \mathcal{E}(\hat{X}_{ij} - X_{ij})$$

$$\text{subject to} \quad \hat{X} = U^T V$$

# Overview of Matrix Factorization Methods

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- Some methods are traditional mathematical way of factorizing a matrix.
  - SVD, LU, Eigen Decomposition
- Some methods are used to factorize **partially** observed matrix.
  - PMF, SVD++, MMMF
- Some methods have multiple applications.
  - NMF in image processing
  - NMF in collaborative filtering



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# LU Decomposition

## LU Decomposition

The **LU Decomposition** factors a matrix as the product of a lower triangular matrix (L) and an upper triangular matrix (U).

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$$A = LU$$

Lower triangular matrix:  
Every entry above the main  
diagonal are zero.

Upper triangular matrix:  
Every entry below the main  
diagonal are zero.



# LU Decomposition

- LU Decomposition is useful when
  - Solving a system of linear equations
  - Inverting a matrix
  - Computing the determinant of a matrix
- LU Decomposition can be computed using a method similar to Gaussian Elimination

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# LU Decomposition

- Computing LU Decomposition of a matrix A
  - Using Gaussian elimination to compute U
  - Apply inverse of the corresponding entry to I <https://eduassistpro.github.io/>

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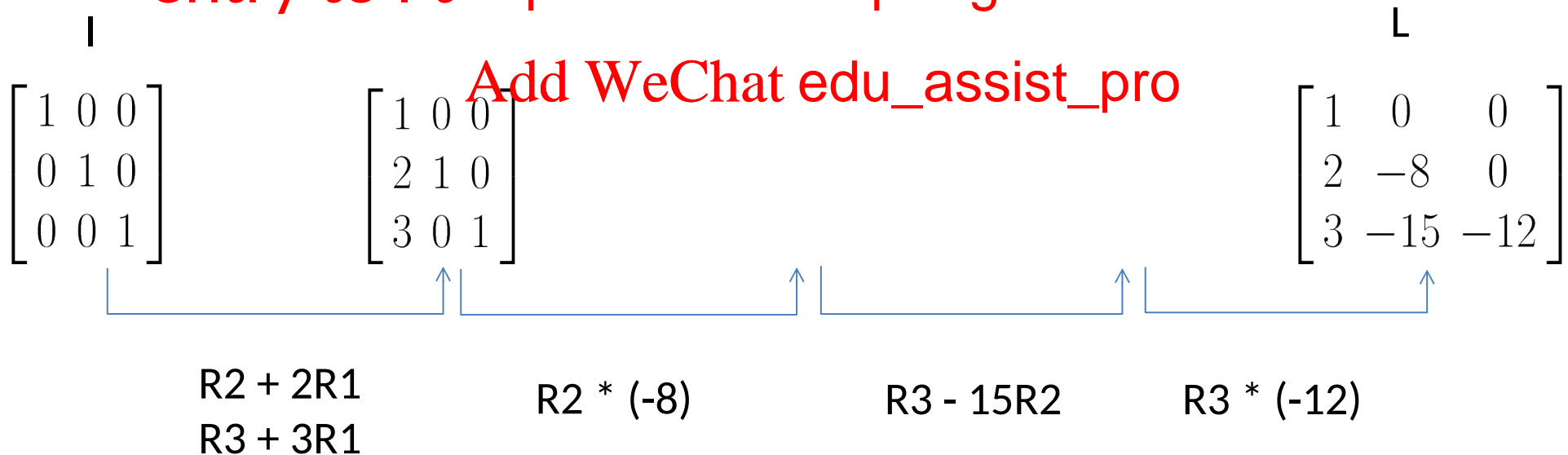
A					U
$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & -4 & 6 \\ 3 & -9 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -8 & 0 \\ 0 & -15 & -12 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -15 & -12 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -12 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$	
	↑	↑	↑	↑	
	R2 - 2R1 R3 - 3R1	R2 * (-1/8)	R3 + 15R2	R3 * (-1/12)	

# LU Decomposition

- Computing LU Decomposition of a matrix  $A$ 
  - Using Gaussian elimination to compute  $U$
  - Apply inverse operation on the corresponding entry to  $I$  to <https://eduassistpro.github.io/>
    - Any row operations that involve adding a multiple of one row to another, for example,  $+kR_j$ , put the value  $-k$  in the  $i$ th-row,  $j$ th-column of the identity matrix.
    - Any row operations that involves getting a leading one on the main diagonal, for example,  $kR_i$ , put the value  $1/k$  in the position of the identity matrix where the leading one occurs.

# LU Decomposition

- Computing LU Decomposition of a matrix A
  - Using Gaussian elimination to compute U
  - Apply inverse operation on the corresponding entry to I to get L



# LU Decomposition

- Computing LU Decomposition of a matrix A
  - Using Gaussian elimination to compute U
  - Apply inverse corresponding entry to I to get L

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$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A & & L & & U \\
 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & -4 & 6 \\ 3 & -9 & 3 \end{bmatrix} & = & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & -8 & 0 \\ 3 & -15 & -12 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{array}$$

# In-class Practice 1

- Go to [practice](#)

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# Singular Value Decomposition

## Singular Value Decomposition

The **Singular Value Decomposition (SVD)** of an  $N \times M$  matrix  $A$  is a factorization of the form:

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- $V^*$  is the **conjugate trans**  $V$
- $U \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$  is **orthonormal** matrix, i.e.,  $UU^* = I$
- $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times M}$  is rectangular **diagonal** matrix with **positive** entries
- $V^* \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times M}$  is **orthonormal** matrix, i.e.,  $VV^* = I$



# SVD v.s. Eigen Decomposition

## Singular Value Decomposition

The **Singular Value Decomposition (SVD)** of an  $N \times M$  matrix  $A$  is a factorization of the form:

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- Diagonal entries of  $\Sigma$  are called **singular values** of  $A$ .  
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- Columns of  $U$  and  $V$  are called **left singular vectors** and **right singular vectors** of  $A$ , respectively
- The singular values  $\Sigma_{ii}$  are arranged in descending order in  $\Sigma$

# SVD v.s. Eigen Decomposition

## Singular Value Decomposition

The **Singular Value Decomposition (SVD)** of an  $N \times M$  matrix  $A$  is a factorization of the form:

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- The left singular vectors of  $A$  are eigenvectors of  $A^*A$ , because

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- The left singular vectors of  $A$  are eigenvectors of  $A^*A$ , because

$$A^*A = (U\Sigma V^*)^*(U\Sigma V^*) = V\Sigma^T\Sigma V$$

- The singular values of  $A$  are the square roots of eigenvalues of both  $AA^*$  and  $A^*A$ .

# SVD Example

- We give an example of a simple SVD decomposition

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \sqrt{0.2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \sqrt{0.8} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sqrt{0.8} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \sqrt{0.2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$A$ 
 $U$ 
 $\Sigma$ 
 $V^*$

# SVD as Low Rank Approximation

## Low Rank Approximation

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\tilde{A}} \|A - \tilde{A}\|_{Fro}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \operatorname{Rank}(\tilde{A}) = r$$

SVD gives the optimal <https://eduassistpro.github.io/>

Solution (Eckart-Young Theorem) [Add WeChat edu\\_assist\\_pro](#)

Let  $A = U\Sigma V^*$  be the SVD for  $A$ , and  $\tilde{\Sigma}$  is the same as  $\Sigma$  by keeping the **largest**  $r$  singular values. Then,

$$\tilde{A} = U\tilde{\Sigma}V^*$$

Is the solution to the above problem.

# SVD as Low Rank Approximation

## Solution (Eckart-Young Theorem)

Let  $A = U\Sigma V^*$  be the SVD for  $A$ , and  $\tilde{\Sigma}$  is the same as  $\Sigma$  by keeping the **largest singular values**. Then,

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Is the solution to the above problem

- It works when  $A$  is fully observed.
- What if  $A$  is only **partially** observed?

# Low Rank Approximation for Partially Observed Matrix

Low Rank Approximation for Partially Observed Matrix

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- $I_{ij}$  is the **indicator** that equals 1 if  $A_{ij}$  is observed and 0 otherwise
- We consider only the **observed** entries.
- A natural probabilistic extension of the above formulation is **Probabilistic Matrix Factorization**



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# Probabilistic Matrix Factorization

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- A popular method [\*\*C https://eduassistpro.github.io/rmf\(CF\)\*\*](https://eduassistpro.github.io/rmf(CF))  
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- Follow the low rank matrix factorization framework



# Collaborative Filtering

## Collaborative Filtering

The goal of **collaborative filtering (CF)** is to infer user preferences for items given a large but incomplete collection of preferences for many users.

- For example:
  - Suppose you infer f users who like "Star Wars" also like "Lord of th"  
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  - Then if a user watched and liked "Star" would recommend him/her "Lord of the Rings" but not "Dune".  
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- Preferences can be explicit or implicit:
  - Explicit preferences
    - Ratings assigned to items
    - Facebook "Like", Google "Plus"
  - Implicit preferences
    - Catalog browse history
    - Items rented or bought by users

# Content Based Filtering vs. Collaborative Filtering

## Content Based Filtering

- Analyze the content of the item
- Match the item with users preferences
- Item features are hard to extract
  - Music, Movies
- Can recommend new items

## Collaborative Filtering

- User preferences are derived from ratings
- Can recommend items preferred by similar users
- Cannot recommend new items
- Very effective with sufficient data

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# CF as Matrix Completion

- CF can be viewed as a matrix completion problem

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Items

- Task: given a user/item matrix with only a small subset of entries present, fill in (some of) the missing entries.
- PMF approach: low rank matrix factorization.

# Collaborative Filtering and Matrix Factorization

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- Collaborative filtering can be formulated as a matrix factorization problem.
- Many matrix factorization methods can be used to solve collaborative filtering problem.
- The above is only a partial list.

# Notations

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- Suppose we have integer rating values from 1 to 5.
- Let  $X_{ij}$  be the rating of user  $i$  for item  $j$ .
- $U \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times N}$  is latent user feature matrix,  $U_i$  denote the latent feature vector for user  $i$ .
- $V \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$  is latent item feature matrix,  $V_j$  denote the latent feature vector for item  $j$ .

# Matrix Factorization: the Non-probabilistic View

- To predict the rating given by user  $i$  to item  $j$ ,

Assignment Project Exam  $V_{kj}$  Help

- Intuition <https://eduassistpro.github.io/>
  - The item feature vector can be the input.
  - The user feature vector can be viewed as the weight vector.
  - The predicted rating is the output.
  - Unlike in linear regression, where inputs are given and weights are learned, we learn both the weights and the input by minimizing squared error.
  - The model is symmetric in items and users.

# Probabilistic Matrix Factorization

- PMF is a simple probabilistic linear model with **Gaussian** observation noise.
- Given the feature vectors for the user and the item, the distribution of the  $P$ :

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$P$

- The user and item feature vectors adopt zero-mean spherical Gaussian priors:

$$P(U|\sigma_U^2) = \prod_{i=1}^N \mathcal{N}(U_i|0, \sigma_U^2 I)$$

$$P(V|\sigma_V^2) = \prod_{j=1}^M \mathcal{N}(V_j|0, \sigma_V^2 I)$$

# Probabilistic Matrix Factorization

- **Maximum A Posterior (MAP)**: Maximize the log-posterior over user and item features with fixed hyper-parameters.
- MAP is equivalent to minimizing the following objective function:

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PMF objective function

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$$\mathcal{E} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^M I_{ij} (R_{ij} - U_i^T V_j)^2 + \frac{\lambda_U}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \|U_i\|_{Fro}^2 + \frac{\lambda_V}{2} \sum_{j=1}^M \|V_j\|_{Fro}^2$$



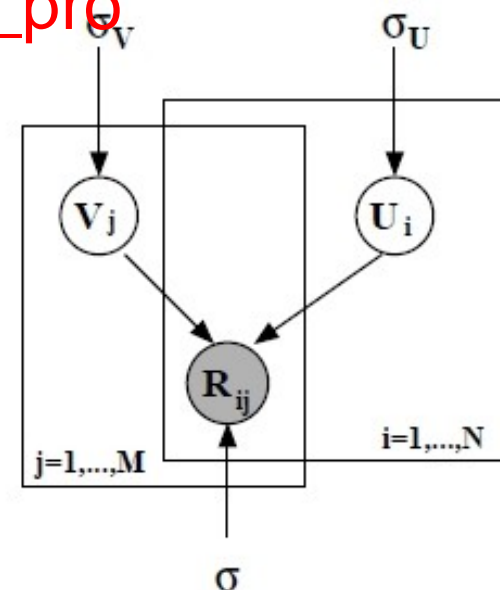
# Probabilistic Matrix Factorization

PMF objective function

$$\mathcal{E} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^M I_{ij} (R_{ij} - U_i^T V_j)^2 + \frac{\lambda_U}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \|U_i\|_{Fro}^2 + \frac{\lambda_V}{2} \sum_{j=1}^M \|V_j\|_{Fro}^2$$

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- of whether user  $i$  rated item  $j$
- First term is the **sum-of-squared-error**.
- Second and third term are **quadratic regularization** term to avoid over-fitting problem.



# In-class Practice 2

- Go to [practice](#)

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# Probabilistic Matrix Factorization

PMF objective function

$$\mathcal{E} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^M I_{ij} (R_{ij} - U_i^T V_j)^2 + \frac{\lambda_U}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \|U_i\|_{Fro}^2 + \frac{\lambda_V}{2} \sum_{j=1}^M \|V_j\|_{Fro}^2$$

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- If all ratings were observed, the objective reduces to the SVD objective in the limit of prior variances going to infinity.
- PMF can be viewed as a probabilistic extension of SVD.

# Probabilistic Matrix Factorization

PMF objective function

$$\mathcal{E} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^M I_{ij} (R_{ij} - U_i^T V_j)^2 + \frac{\lambda_U}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \|U_i\|_{Fro}^2 + \frac{\lambda_V}{2} \sum_{j=1}^M \|V_j\|_{Fro}^2$$

A trick to improve <https://eduassistpro.github.io/> (g values)

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- Map ratings to  $[0,1]$  by  $(R_{ij} - 1)/(D - 1)$
- Pass  $U_i^T V_j$  through logistic function

$$g(x) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-x)}$$



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# Non-negative Matrix Factorization

NMF is a popular method that is widely used in:

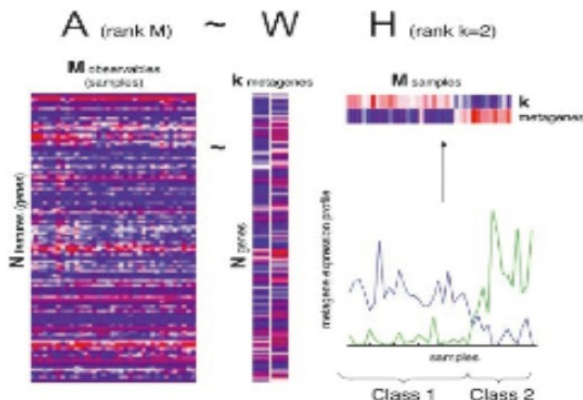
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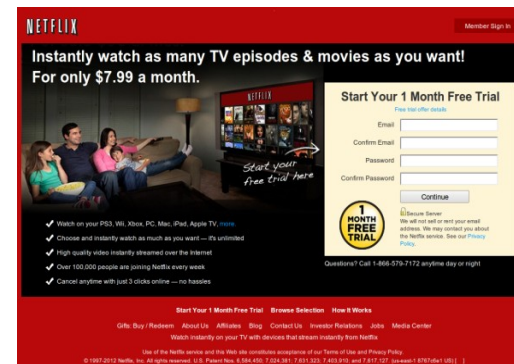
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Images Mining

t-Mining



Metagenes Study



Collaborative Filtering

# Non-negative Matrix Factorization

- NMF fits in the low rank matrix factorization framework with additional **non-negativity constraints**.
- NMF can only factorize a Non-negative matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times M}$  into basis matrix  $W \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times K}$  and weight matrix  $H \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times M}$

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$$\text{s.t. } W, H \geq 0$$

# Interpretation with NMF

- Columns of  $W$  are the underlying **basis** vectors, i.e., each of the  $M$  columns of  $A$  can be built from  $K$  columns of  $W$ .
- Columns of  $H$  give the **weights** associated with each basis vector.

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- $W, H \geq 0$  commands **additive parts-based** representation.



# NMF in Image Mining

Additive parts-based representation

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# NMF in Image Mining

- In image processing, we often assume Poisson Noise

NMF Poisson Noise

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- Objective function can be changed to  $\min \|A - WH\|_{Fro}^2$ , the **non-negative constraint** is more important than the form of the objective function.

NMF Gaussian Noise

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \|A - WH\|_{Fro}^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & W, H \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

# Inference of NMF

NMF Gaussian Noise

$\min \|A - WH\|_{F, \sigma}^2$   
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- Convex in  $W$  or  $H$ , but not both
- Global min generally not achievable.
- Many number of unknowns:  $N \times K$  for  $W$  and  $M \times K$  for  $H$  (or  $H^T$ )

# Inference of NMF

## NMF Gaussian Noise

$$\min \|A - WH\|_{Fro}^2$$

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- Alternating g get a local minima

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W

# Properties of NMF

- Basis vectors  $W_i$  are not orthogonal
- $W_k, H_k \geq 0$  Have immediate interpretation
  - Example: large  $w_{ij}$ 's implies basis vector  $W_i$  is mostly about terms  $j$
  - Example:  $h_{i1}$  denoting pointing in the “direction” of topic vector  $W_1$

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$$Ae_1 = WH_{*1} = [W_1] H_{11} + [W_2] H_{21} + \cdots + [W_K] H_{K1}$$

- NMF is algorithm-dependent:  $W, H$  not unique



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# Recent Development of MF methods in Collaborative Filtering

- The basic form of matrix factorization has been extended to improve prediction accuracy
  - SVD++ [Yehuda Koren
  - RLFM [Agarwal 2009]
  - Etc.

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# SVD++

- SVD++ is a matrix factorization model which makes use of implicit feedback.
- In general,  $\hat{r}_{ui}$  can refer to any kinds of users' his information that can help indicate user preferences.

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{r}_{ui} = & \mu + b_u + b_i \\ & + q_i^T \left( p_u + |N(u)|^{-\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{j \in N(u)} y_j \right) \\ & + |R^k(i; u)|^{-\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{j \in R^k(i; u)} (r_{uj} - b_{uj}) w_{ij} + |N^k(i; u)|^{-\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{j \in N^k(i; u)} c_{ij}\end{aligned}$$



# 1<sup>st</sup> Tier

- The first term is the basis rate; it takes in account a global mean and the bias of both user a

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier

- The second term is similar to the original SVD but takes in account the implicit feedback probability of rated items  $N(u)$

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# 3<sup>rd</sup> Tier

- The third and fourth terms are the neighborhood terms. The former is the weighted bi-adjacency matrix between the observed and the actual rate, and the latter is the local effect of the implicit feedback.

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{r}_{ui} = & \mu + b_u + b_i \\ & + q_i^T \left( p_u + |N(u)|^{-\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{j \in N(u)} y_j \right) \\ & + |R^k(i; u)|^{-\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{j \in R^k(i; u)} (r_{uj} - b_{uj}) w_{ij} + |N^k(i; u)|^{-\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{j \in N^k(i; u)} c_{ij} \end{aligned}$$

# RLFM

- Regression-based Latent Factor Model makes use of the side information that is available in recommender systems
  - User demographic info
  - Properties of items (e.g. director, leading actor of a movie, genre of a movie)

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# One-slide Takeaway

- Matrix Factorization is the key to recommender systems
- LU-decomposition
  - Decompose a matrix into a lower triangular matrix and an upper triangular matrix
- SVD decomposition
  - Decompose a matrix into  $U$ ,  $\Sigma$ , and  $V^T$ , where  $U$  and  $V$  are orthonormal matrices and  $\Sigma$  is a diagonal matrix, whose values are singular values
- Probabilistic Matrix Factorization
  - Factorize a partially observed matrix into the product of two low-rank matrices, usually used in recommender systems
- Non-negative Matrix Factorization
  - Factorize a matrix into the product of two non-negative matrices, can be used to learn the "parts"

# References

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# In-class Practice 1

## LU decomposition

Perform LU decomposition of the following matrix A:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -5 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

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# In-class Practice 2

PMF objective function

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Write out the partial derivative of the above objective function with respect to  $U_i$  and  $V_j$ .

We will explain how to solve the equation using the partial derivatives.