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# Ok Foodie!

— Recommendation App —  
Restaurant Decision Tool For Two!

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# Outline

- Introduction (Ariani)
- Project Dataset (Muru)
  - • Understanding the Features
  - • EDA
- Restaurant Recommendation Algorithms
  - TF-IDF/NLTK (Elsa)
  - Doc2Vec Methods (Erin)
  - Collaborative Filtering/Hybrid (Ariani)
- Results and Comparison of Methods (Eric)
- Ok Foodie! App Demonstration (Muru)
- Conclusions & Future Directions

# Ever had this conversation?



# Big Data - The Abundance of Options



90%

OF THE WORLD'S DATA WAS CREATED  
IN THE LAST 2 YEARS!

# Paradox of Choice



- Modern consumers are inundated with choices.
- Retailers and content providers offer a huge selection of products, with unprecedented opportunities to meet a variety of special needs and tastes.
- Matching consumers with the most appropriate products is key to enhancing user satisfaction and loyalty.
- Personalized recommendation systems have become a keen interest for companies to enhance their market share.
- Good personalized recommendations add another dimension to a user's experience.
- Many companies combine collaborative & content based methods.

# yelp\* Dataset Challenge

## Round 12

Competition to use data in innovative ways

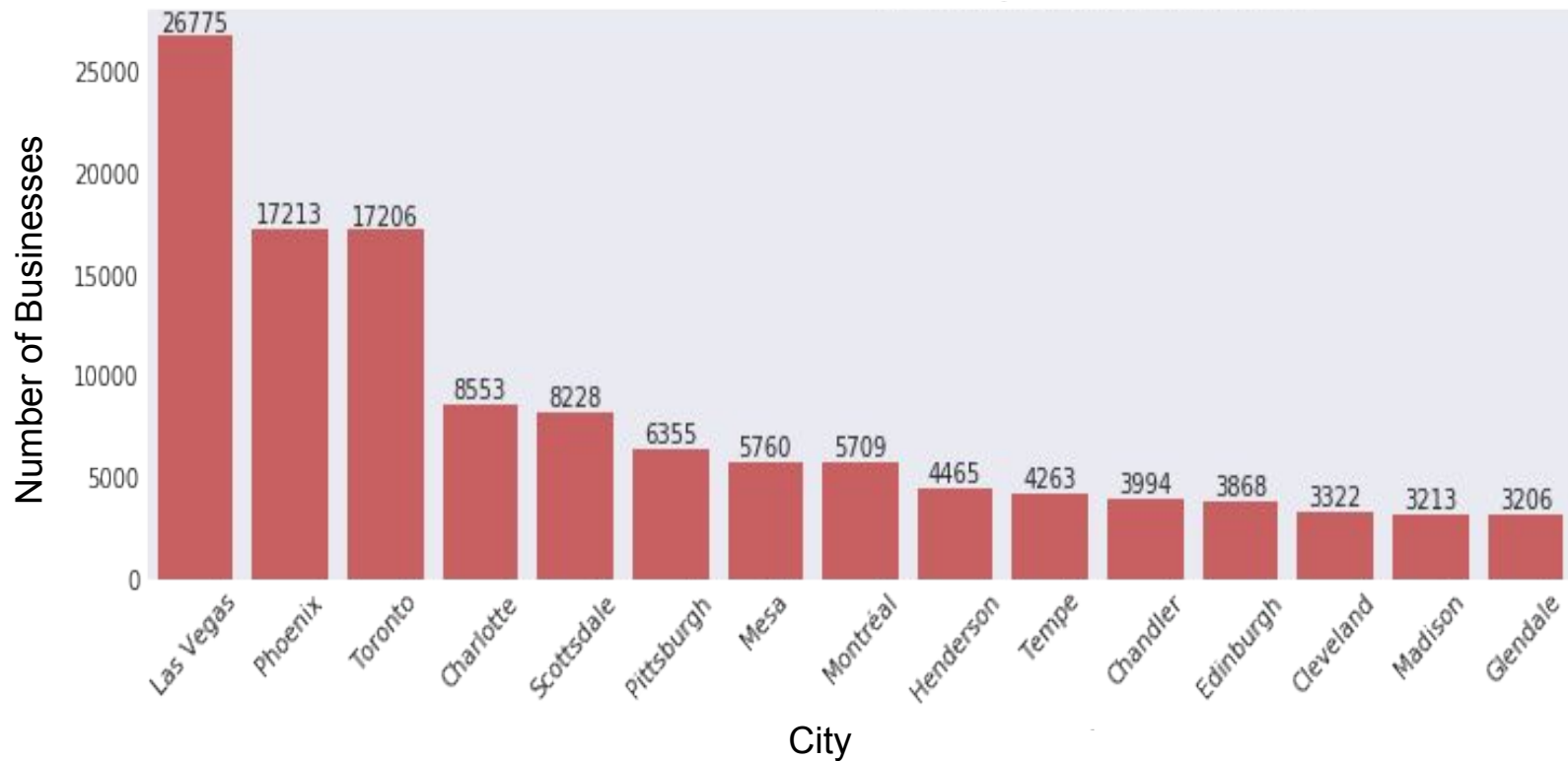
**Users, Businesses, Reviews, Tips,  
Check-ins, Photos**

From 10 metro areas in 2 countries

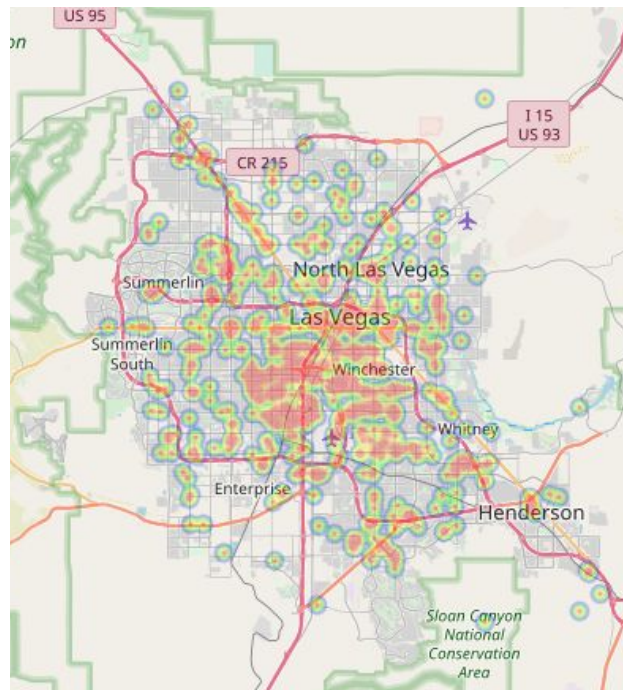
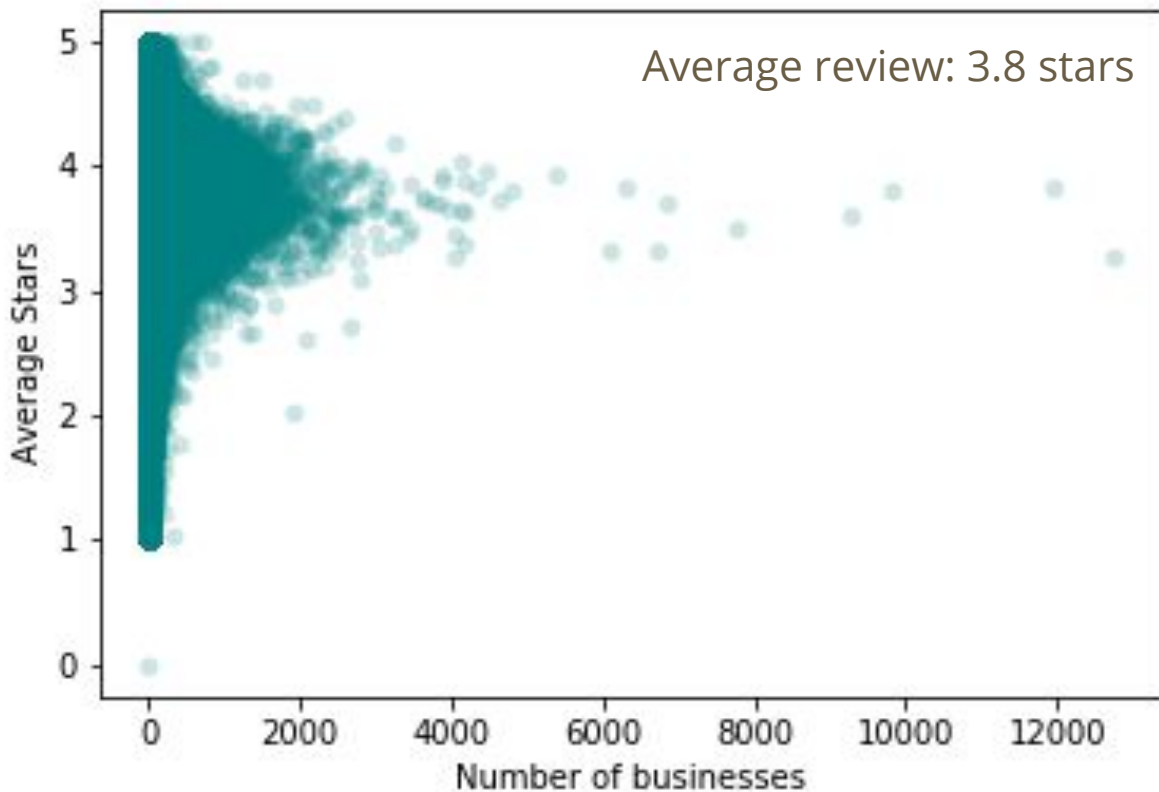


***“Unsupervised Foodies”***  
**Project Focus:**  
**Las Vegas Restaurants**

# Why Las Vegas?



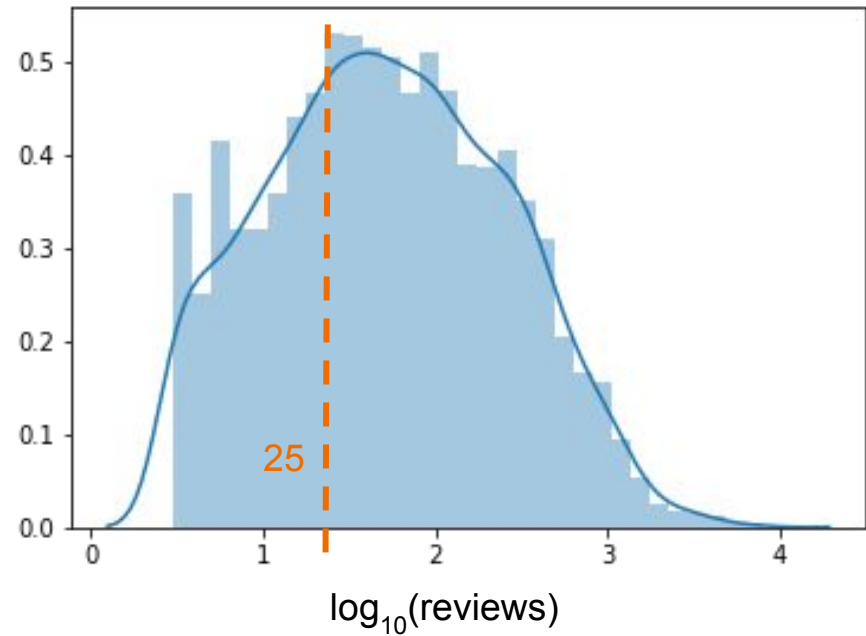
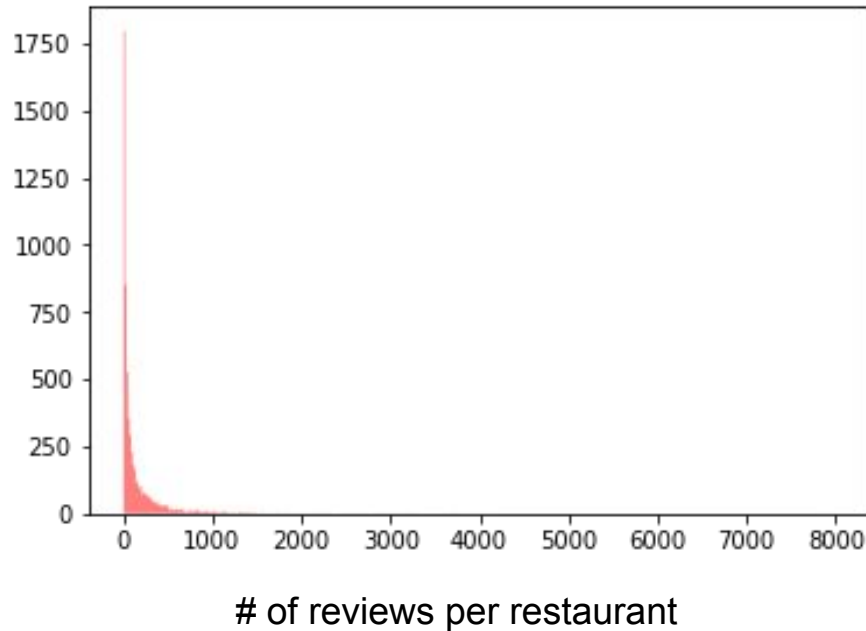
# Exploratory Data Analysis





# Exploratory Data Analysis

6153 restaurants in Las Vegas, 4064 are currently open; 3020 have > 25 reviews

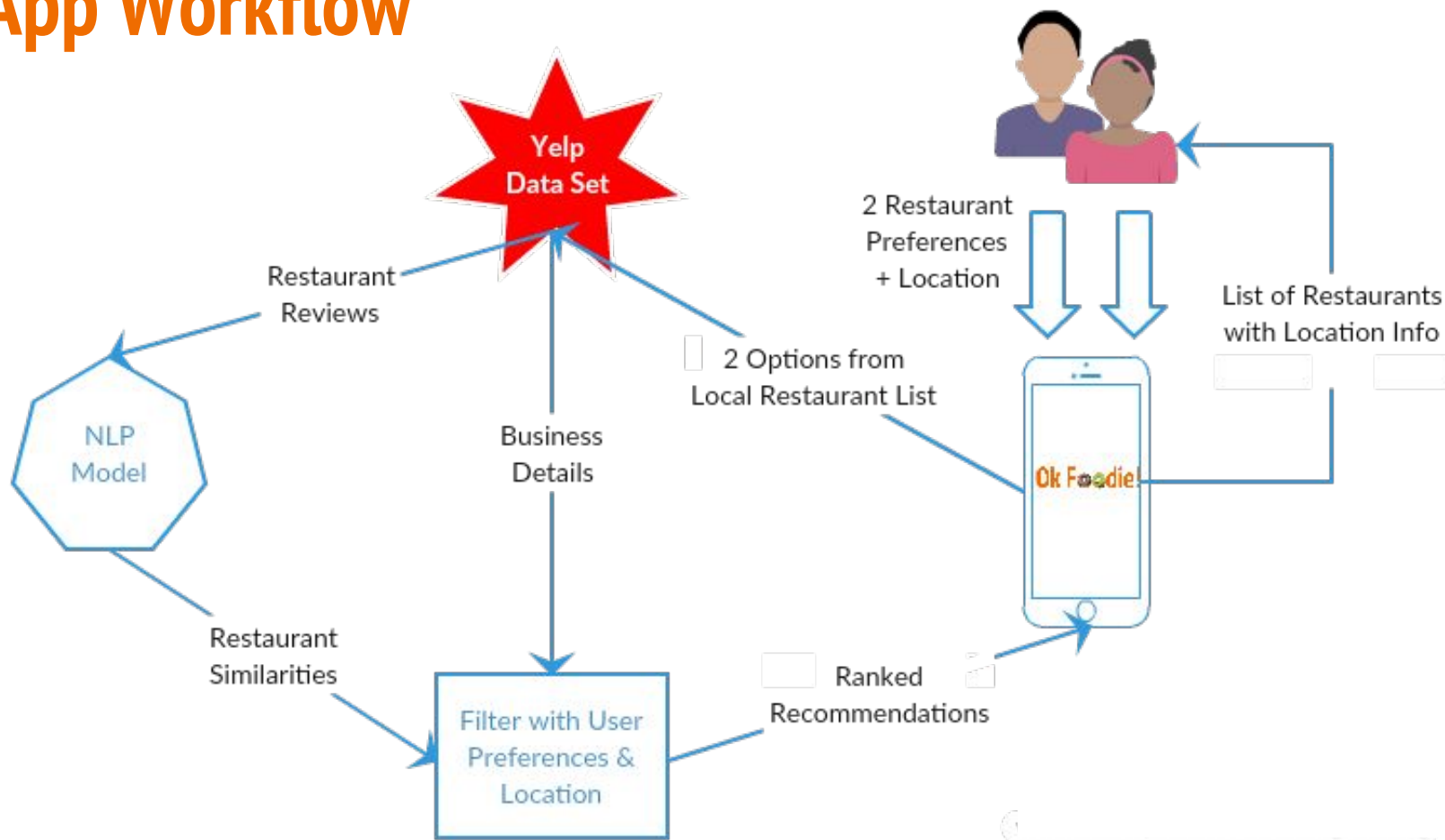


# Who are the Users?

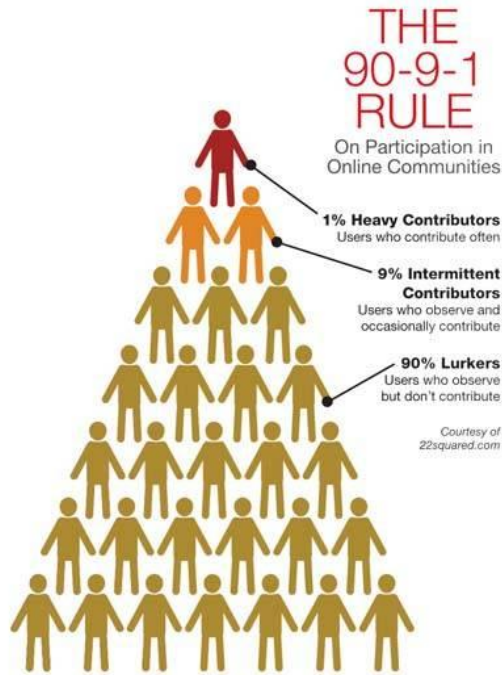


- Average rating is 3.8 stars
- 80% of the reviewers only write 5 reviews
- Yelp Elite users are more influential and considered extremely active prolific users, therefore their reviews should have more weight.
- Yelp users with friends are more likely to trust their friend's opinions on a restaurant.

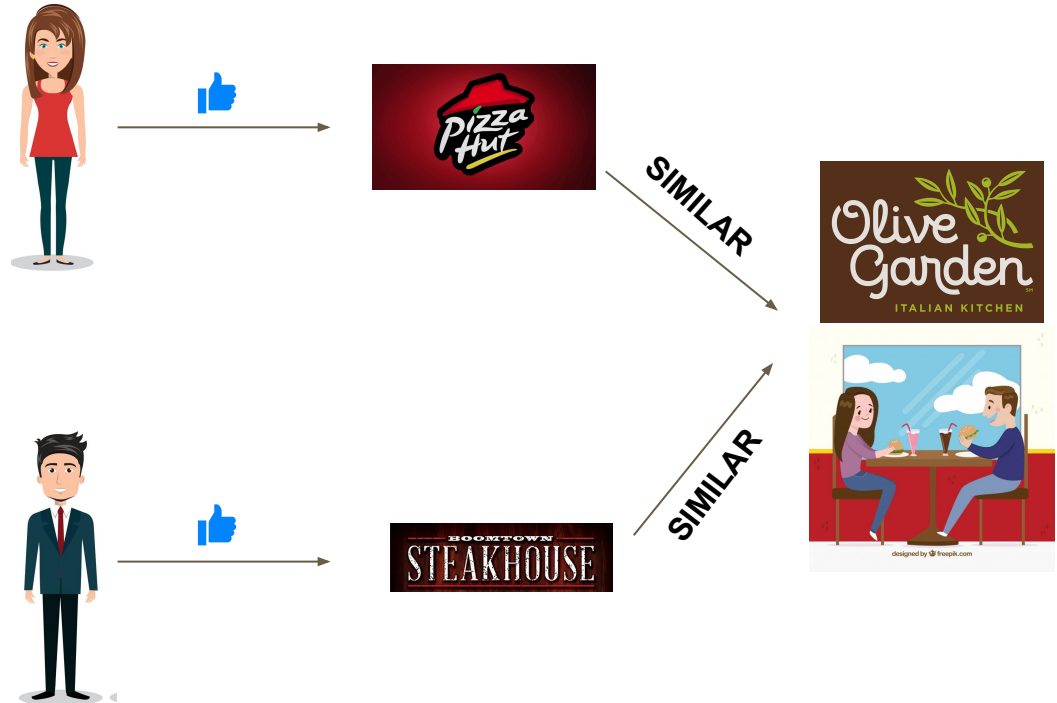
# App Workflow



# Yelp and the 1/9/90 rule: Approach (unknown users)



Content (item) -based recommendation



# Similarity based on text vectorization

## Pre-processing

- Tokenize
- Lemmatize
- Filter stop words
- Filter infrequent words

## Document-to-vector models (Word Embedding)

### Frequency based Embedding:

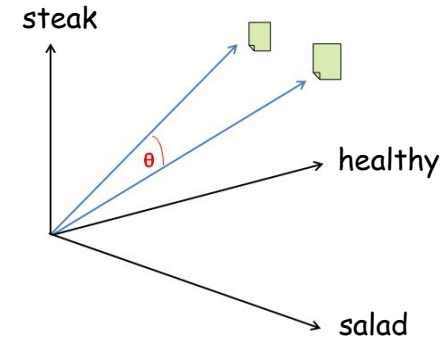
- Count vector
- TF-IDF (NLTK, Gensim)
- Co-occurrence vector (GloVe)

### Prediction based Embeddings:

- Word2Vec & Doc2Vec (Neural networks, Gensim)

## Document Similarity

### 1. Cosine similarity

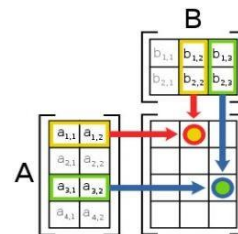


### 2. Rank restaurants

A

Term Frequency x Inverse Document Frequency

bag of words      importance of the word in the document

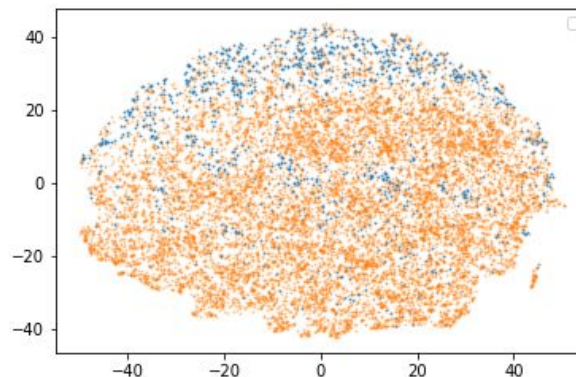


GloVe Embedding vector

Co-occurrence vector

## TF-IDF weighted sum of embedding vectors

- Reduce dimensionality: PCA  
(75500, 300) → (75500, 8)
- t-SNE  
(75500, 2)
- Feed into collaborative filtering model



● Bad reviews  
● Good reviews

# Natural Language Processing with Neural Networks

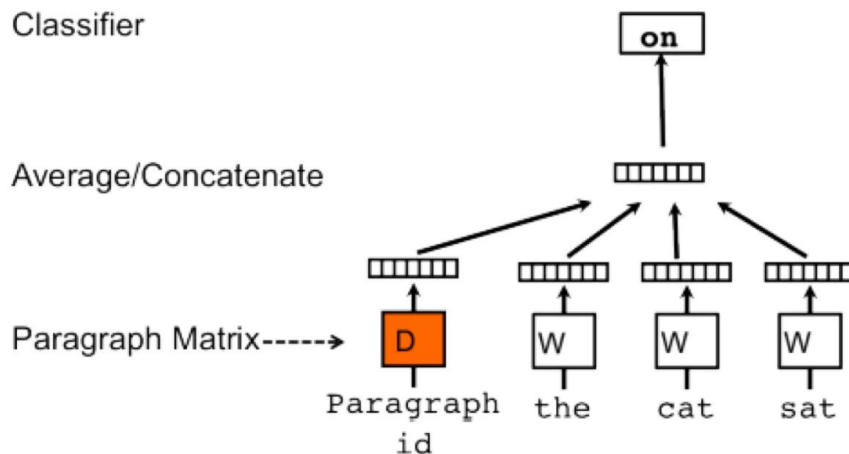
## Word Vectors

Hidden layer of neural network

Word representation transformed to probability distribution of nearby words

## Paragraph/Document Vectors

Fixed-length feature representations of *contextual meaning* from text of any length



# Inferring Similarities From Words



*Find similarities from word frequencies:*

- menu items
- service quality



*Comparable Options*



# Inferring Similarities Through Context



*Find deeper meaning within the reviews:*

- menu items
- service quality
- uniqueness
- reputation
- 'cult' status
- high ratings
- customer base



*Expanded Options*

# NLP Vectorization of Yelp Reviews

## Using GenSim Doc2Vec Module:

Pre-process

Model

Vectors

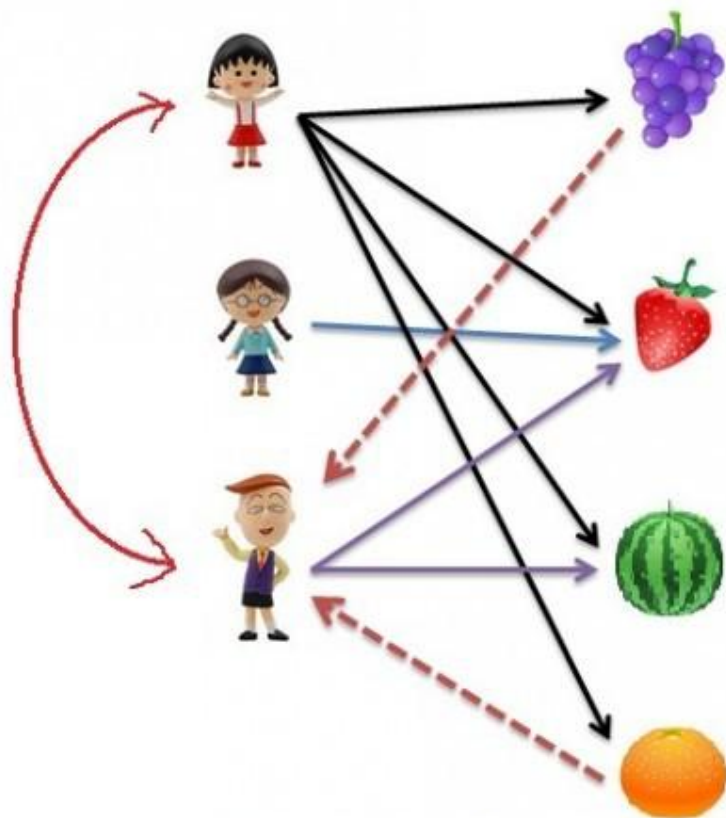
Compare

- 25 sampled reviews per restaurant
- Tokenize, remove punctuation, lowercase
- Tag documents
- Train on vocabulary & context
- 200-dimension document vectors
- Vector similarities of reviews
- Median values
- Rank results & merge both users' restaurants

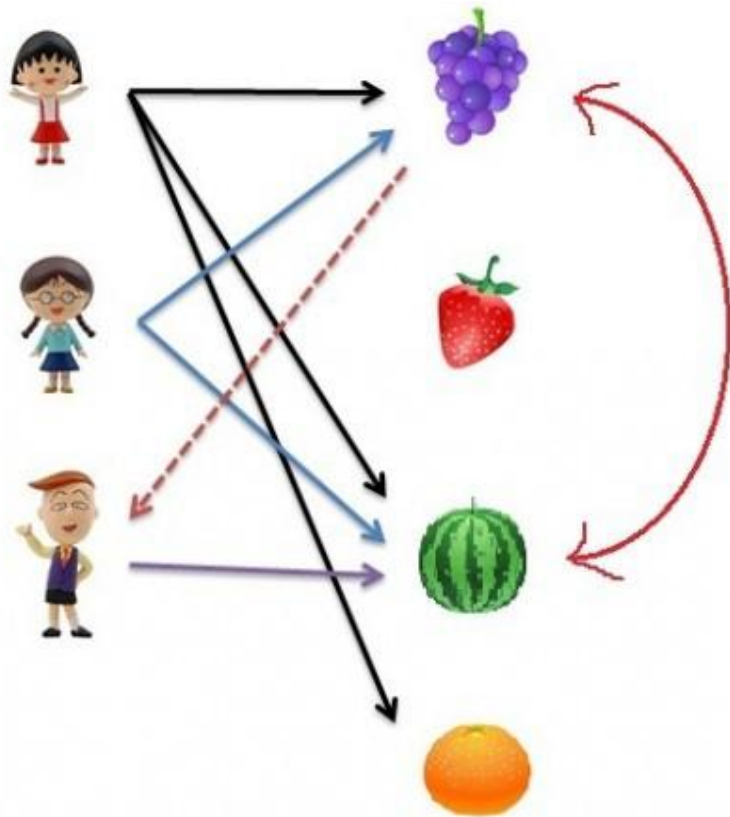
**TF-IDF Vectors**  
+  
**Doc2Vec Vectors**

**Collaborative  
Filtering Predictive  
Model**

## Joining Forces



User-based filtering



Item-based filtering

# Using Matrix Factorization

- Collaborative filtering analyzes relationships between users and interdependencies among products to identify new user-item associations.
- Matrix Factorization is a mathematical tool used to discover the latent (hidden) interactions between users and restaurants, driving the raw data (which we understand as tastes and preferences).
- Matrix factorization is the breaking down of one matrix into a product of multiple matrices.

# Matrix Factorization

m = number of users, n = number of items  
choose d, the number of features

The diagram illustrates the matrix factorization process. It shows a matrix of size  $m \times d$  (5 rows, 2 columns) multiplied by a matrix of size  $d \times n$  (2 rows, 4 columns). The result is a matrix of size  $m \times n$  (5 rows, 4 columns).

The first matrix (size  $m \times d$ ) has 5 rows and 2 columns, all cells containing a question mark. The second matrix (size  $d \times n$ ) has 2 rows and 4 columns, all cells containing a question mark. The first two columns of the second matrix are labeled "Feature 1" and "Feature 2".

The resulting matrix (size  $m \times n$ ) has 5 rows and 4 columns. The values in the first row are 5, 2, 3, and 1. The values in the second row are 2, 3, and 1. The other cells are empty.

The equation is represented as:

$$\hat{r}_{ui}^{d=2} = q_i^T p_u$$

# Using Collaborative Filtering for Two

The matrix factorization model provides a rank and predicted score for each user and restaurant.

**User A**

| Name             | Score    | Rank |
|------------------|----------|------|
| Incognito Wraps  | 4.413172 | 1    |
| Taco Naco        | 4.348425 | 2    |
| Kame Omakase     | 4.327258 | 3    |
| Chef @ Your Home | 4.319013 | 4    |



**User B**

| Name             | Score    | Ranks |
|------------------|----------|-------|
| Taco Naco        | 4.327258 | 1     |
| Pollos El Dorado | 4.32112  | 2     |
| Incognito Wraps  | 4.319013 | 3     |
| Kame Omakase     | 4.310336 | 4     |



**Recommendation**

| Name            | Rank |
|-----------------|------|
| Taco Nacho      | 3    |
| Incognito Wraps | 4    |
| Kame Omakase    | 7    |

# Model comparison - collaborative filtering

| Model                 | RMSE    |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Baseline              | 1.01601 |
| + Feature Engineering | 0.9556  |
| + NLP                 | 0.82792 |

# Comparison of Approaches

- Collaborative filtering prediction easy to evaluate
- Unsupervised learning lacks direct evaluation metric
- Use collaborative filtering to evaluate new user recommendations
- Intuition: match new user to existing user(s) that rated choice similarly
- Predict all ratings using collaborative filtering
- Compute average ratings among similar users
- Estimate quality of recommendations across models



# Model evaluation: overview

- Use selected restaurants as starting point
- Sample set of restaurant pairs to simulate input from app
- For any given restaurant combination:
  - Identify existing Yelp users that also like the input choices
  - Select top 25 users with highest *demeaned* rating for each
- Identify restaurants that comparison group likes
- Compute probability both “unknown” users would like recommendations
- Iterate over sample

# Model evaluation: parameters

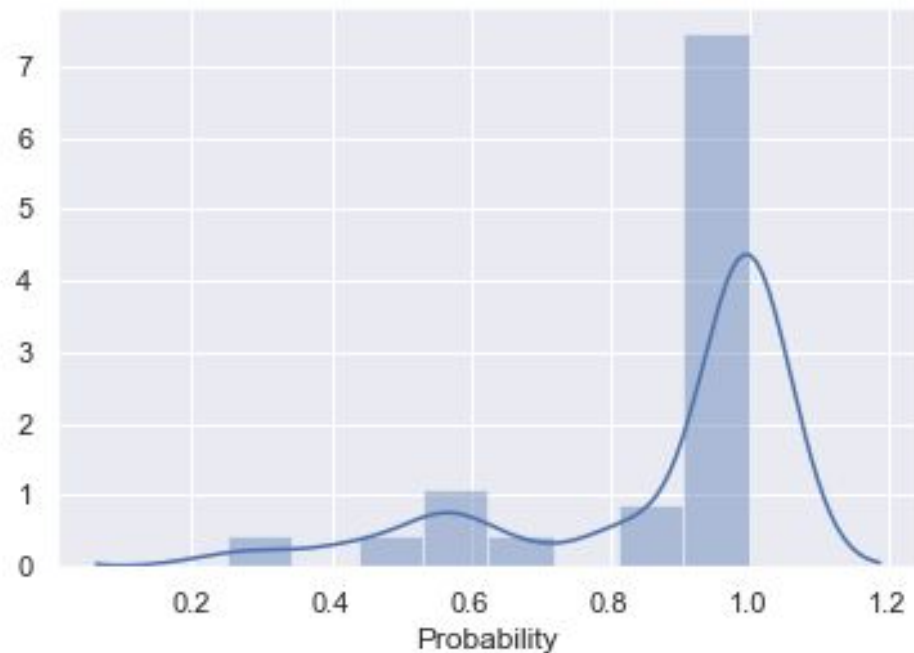
- We explored several parameters
- Comparison group should also like input choice
  - Star rating threshold for comparison group
- Tokenized review distribution can vary a lot across reviews
  - Mean versus median aggregation of individual reviews
  - Weighting tokenized reviews differently

# Model evaluation: tf-idf based on nltk

What is the probability that both individuals like the recommendation?

|                       | Review filters  |                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                       | None            | 3+              | 4+              | 5 only          |
| Median, no weights    | 0.034062        | 0.034062        | 0.034062        | 0.020609        |
| Median, weighted      | 0.059977        | 0.059977        | 0.059977        | 0.020340        |
| Mean, no weights      | 0.032545        | 0.032545        | 0.032545        | 0.019433        |
| <b>Mean, weighted</b> | <b>0.200828</b> | <b>0.200828</b> | <b>0.200828</b> | <b>0.058580</b> |

# Density of nltk recommendation quality



# Product Demo

## Ok Foodie!

Can't decide where to go for dinner?

Tell us where you both want to eat, we will give you new recommendations!!

### Favorite Eatery 1

Rendezvous Wine & Dine (2605 S Decatur Blvd)

### Favorite Eatery 2

Gritz Cafe (1911 Stella Lake, Ste 150)

### Zipcode

89128

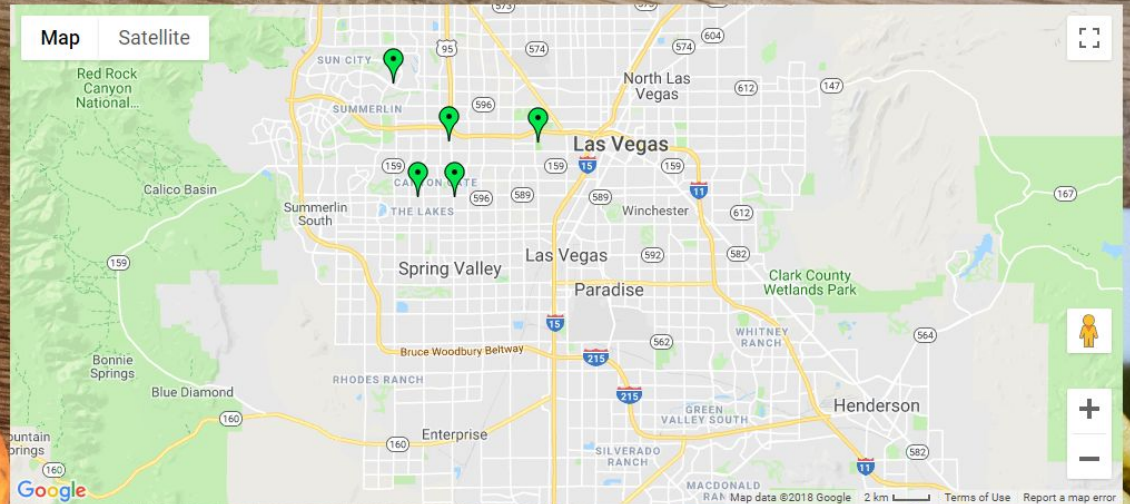
Submit

### Our recommendations for both of you!

Sushi Fever

Cheba Hut

Naka Sushi



Microsoft Edge

# Conclusions & Next Steps

- Continue Model Refinement:
  - Incorporate larger samples of dataset to improve accuracy and personalization
  - Add text from user tips to NLP models
- Scale Up:
  - DataBricks/PySpark
  - Include more cities from the Yelp Challenge DataSet
  - Link to Yelp API
- Next Generation:
  - Mobile app
  - Personalized recommendations for registered Yelp users
  - Optimizing models based on user selections

# Acknowledgements

- Yelp
- NYC DS Academy Teaching Staff
- Teaching Assistants (Dragos)
- Our Patient Friends & Families

# Questions and Suggestions



# Final Product

