

# Food Recommender Based on GCN and MLP

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## 1 Load the model

Code to load and apply the recommender model: `GAT_MLP/food_recommender_apply.py`

## 2 Algorithm demonstration

### 2.1 Architecture

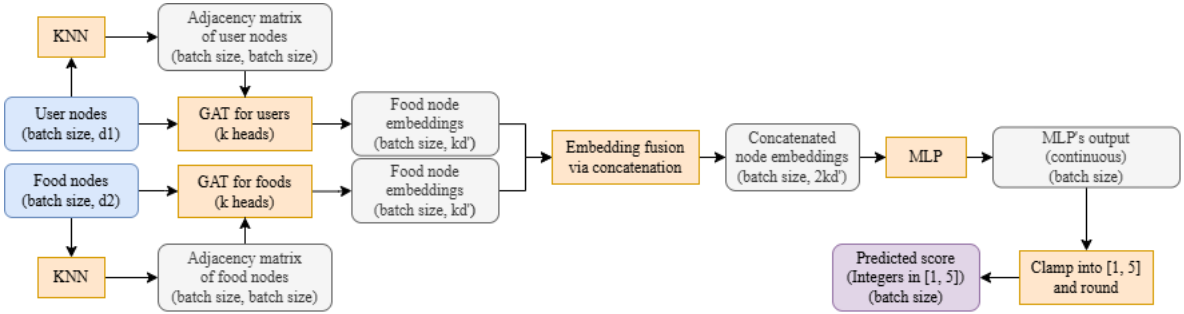


Figure 1: The two stage architecture of food recommender

### 2.2 Algorithms

#### 2.2.1 KNN

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**Algorithm 1** Compute adjacency matrix through KNN

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**Input:**  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  (Node feature matrix),  $k$  (Number of neighbors)

**Output:**  $A^{\text{norm}}$  (Normalized adjacency matrix)

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- 1: For each pair of nodes, calculate their Euclidean distance  $S_{ij} = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^d (x_{ik} - x_{jk})^2}$ , where  $i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  and  $i \neq j$ .
- 2: For each node  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , choose  $(k+1)$  nearest neighbors as  $\mathcal{N}_i = \{j_1, j_2, \dots, j_{k+1}\}$  where  $S_{ij_1} \geq S_{ij_2} \geq \dots \geq S_{ij_{k+1}}$ .
- 3: Initialize the adjacency matrix as  $A^{\text{raw}} \in \{0, 1\}^{n \times n}$  where  $A_{ij}^{\text{raw}} = 1$  if  $j \in \mathcal{N}_i$  and  $i \neq j$ , otherwise  $A_{ij}^{\text{raw}} = 0$ .
- 4: Symmetrize the adjacency matrix by taking the element-wise maximum, i.e.  $A_{ij}^{\text{sym}} = \max(A_{ij}^{\text{raw}}, A_{ji}^{\text{raw}})$ . ▷ To ensure the undirected graph property.
- 5: Compute the degree matrix  $D$  where  $D_{ii} = \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij}^{\text{sym}}$  and  $D_{ij} = 0$  where  $i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  and  $i \neq j$ .

6: Normalize the adjacency matrix:  $A^{\text{norm}} = D^{-1/2}(A^{\text{sym}} + I)D^{-1/2}$ .  
7: **return**  $A^{\text{norm}}$

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### 2.2.2 GAT

**Algorithm 2** Graph Attention Network (GAT) Forward Propagation

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**Input:**  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times d}$  (Node feature matrix);  $A \in \{0, 1\}^{N \times N}$  (Adjacency matrix)  $K$  (Number of attention heads);  $d'$  (Output dimension per head);  $\alpha$  (LeakyReLU negative slope)  
**Output:**  $Z \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times Kd'}$  (Node embeddings)

- 1: Initialize  $Z \leftarrow \text{EmptyMatrix}(N, Kd')$
- 2: **for**  $k = 1$  to  $K$  **do**
- 3:    $W^k \leftarrow \text{LearnableMatrix}(d \times d')$
- 4:    $h^k \leftarrow XW^k$  ▷ Linear projection
- 5:    $a^k \leftarrow \text{LearnableVector}(2d')$  ▷ Compute attention coefficients
- 6:    $E^k \leftarrow \text{ZeroMatrix}(N \times N)$
- 7:   **for**  $i = 1$  to  $N$  **do**
- 8:     **for**  $j = 1$  to  $N$  **do**
- 9:       **if**  $A_{ij} = 1$  **or**  $i = j$  **then**
- 10:           $e_{ij}^k \leftarrow \text{LeakyReLU}(a^k[h_i^k \| h_j^k])$  ▷ Calculate the neighbor pair's attention coefficient, where " $\|$ " means concatenation
- 11:           $E_{ij}^k \leftarrow e_{ij}^k$
- 12:       **else**
- 13:           $E_{ij}^k \leftarrow -\infty$  ▷ This pair of nodes are not neighbors so they do not have an attention coefficient
- 14:       **end if**
- 15:     **end for**
- 16:   **end for**
- 17:    $\alpha^k \leftarrow \text{softmax}(E^k, \text{dim} = 1)$  ▷ Normalize attention weights using row-wise softmax
- 18:    $z^k \leftarrow \alpha^k h^k$  ▷ Aggregate neighbors
- 19:    $Z[:, (k-1)d' : kd'] \leftarrow z^k$  ▷ Concatenate heads as the final embedding
- 20: **end for**
- 21: **return**  $Z$

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### 2.2.3 MLP

**Algorithm 3** Forward propagation through MLP

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**Input:**  $Z \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d_{\text{emb}}}$  (Node embedding matrix),  $h$  (Number of hidden layers)  $L \in \mathbb{R}^h$  (Hidden layers' dimensions)  
**Output:**  $\hat{r}_{\text{valid}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  (Predicted scores)

- 1:  $H^{(0)} = Z$ .
- 2: **for**  $l \in \{1, \dots, h\}$  **do**
- 3:   Propagation on the current hidden layer:  $H^{(l)} = \text{ReLU}(W^{(l)}H^{(l-1)} + b^{(l)})$ , where  $W^{(l)} \in \mathbb{R}^{L_l \times L_{(l-1)}}$  and  $b^{(l)} \in \mathbb{R}^{L_l}$ .
- 4: **end for**
- 5: Convolution on the output layer:  $\hat{r} = W^{(h+1)}H^{(h)} + b^{(h+1)}$ , where  $W^{(h+1)} \in \mathbb{R}^{L_h \times n}$  and  $b^{(h+1)} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .
- 6: Transform all predicted scores to integers in  $[1, 5]$ :  $\hat{r}_{\text{valid}} = \text{round}(\text{clamp}(\hat{r}, 1, 5))$ .
- 7: **return**  $\hat{r}_{\text{valid}}$

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### **3 Test results of the best model**

MSE Loss=1.1760, RMSE=1.1323, MAE=0.8619