# **Movie Recommendation System**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

This research aims to investigate movie recommendation systems using R, Python, and SQL. As the number of movies and streaming services increase, it is important to provide personalized recommendations to enhance the user experience. This study uses data analytics, collaborative filtering, and natural language processing to uncover insights on how movie recommendation systems perform. The analysis is conducted on a dataset containing movie ratings, user preferences, and movie metadata. The results show that collaborative filtering is an effective method for providing personalized recommendations, and natural language processing can improve the accuracy of recommendations based on movie reviews. Furthermore, the study identifies limitations and challenges in implementing recommendation systems, such as the cold start problem and data sparsity. In this research paper, we discuss the meaningful insights discovered from the analysis, propose potential solutions to overcome the limitations, and outline the valuable findings for improving movie recommendation systems. The study provides a comprehensive analysis of movie recommendation systems using R, Python, and SQL. By leveraging data analytics techniques, the research uncovers insights into the performance of recommendation algorithms and their ability to provide accurate and personalized recommendations. The study also examines the impact of different factors on the quality of recommendations, such as the size of the dataset, the choice of similarity metrics, and the incorporation of user reviews. Overall, the findings of this study can be useful for improving the design and implementation of movie recommendation systems, which can ultimately enhance the user experience and increase user engagement.

#### Introduction

Movie recommendations are an important part of modern entertainment culture, as they allow people to explore new genres and find films they may not have known about otherwise. With countless options available across streaming services and theaters, it can be overwhelming to choose what to watch next. That's why it's helpful to rely on recommendations from experts and peers to help guide your decision. From critically acclaimed films to blockbuster hits, there's something for everyone in the world of cinema. This study focuses on analyzing movie data to provide recommendations for viewers based on their preferences.

A recommendation system is a type of information filtering system which attempts to predict the preferences of a user and make suggestions based on these preferences. There are a wide variety of applications for recommendation systems. These have become increasingly popular over the last few years and are now utilized in most online platforms that we use. The content of such platforms varies from movies, music, books and videos to friends and stories on social media platforms, to products on e-commerce websites, to people on professional and dating websites, to search results returned on Google. Often, these systems are able to collect information about a user choices, and can use this information to improve their suggestions in the future. For example, Facebook can monitor your interaction with various stories on your feed to learn what types of stories appeal to you. Sometimes, the recommender systems can make improvements based on the activities of many people. For example, if Amazon observes that many customers who buy the latest Apple Macbook also buy a USB-C-toUSB Adapter, they can recommend the Adapter to a new user who has just added a Macbook to his cart. Due to the advances in recommender systems, users constantly expect good recommendations. The System recommends the same movies to users with similar demographic features. Since each user is different, this approach is considered to be too simple. The basic idea behind this system is that movies that are more popular and critically acclaimed will have a higher probability of being liked by the average audience. Collaborative filtering, where we try to group similar users together and use information about the group to make recommendations to the user

#### **Research Questions**

- 1. Can a movie's genre be used to accurately recommend movies to users with similar interests?
- 2. Can a user's movie preferences be predicted based on their previous ratings?
- 3. How does the distribution of user ratings vary based on the count of ratings received by movies?
- 4. Is there any particular genre users like the most?

#### LITERATURE SURVEY

The research papers are all related to recommender systems and how they can be improved using various techniques, such as Bayesian networks, collaborative filtering, clustering, and hybrid approaches. Therefore, the research questions are related to gathering information about users' preferences and behaviors related to watching movies, which can be used to develop better recommender systems.

Luis M Capos et al has analyzed two traditional recommender systems i.e. content based filtering and collaborative filtering. As both of them have their own drawbacks he proposed a new system which is a combination of Bayesian network and collaborative filtering.[1]

A hybrid system has been presented by Harpreet Kaur et al. The system uses a mix of content as

well as collaborative filtering algorithm. The context of the movies is also considered while recommending. The user - user relationship as well as user - item relationship plays a role in the recommendation.[2]

The user specific information or item specific information is clubbed to form a cluster by Utkarsh Gupta et al. using chameleon. This is an efficient technique based on Hierarchical clustering for recommender system. To predict the rating of an item voting system is used. The proposed system has lower error and has better clustering of similar items.[3]

Urszula Kużelewska et al. proposed clustering to deal with recommender systems. Two methods of computing cluster representatives were presented and evaluated. Centroid-based solution and memory-based collaborative filtering methods were used as a basis for comparing effectiveness of the proposed two methods. The result was a significant increase in the accuracy of the generated recommendations when compared to just centroid-based method.[4]

Costin-Gabriel Chiru et al. proposed Movie Recommender, a system which uses the information known about the user to provide movie recommendations. This system attempts to solve the problem of unique recommendations which results from ignoring the data specific to the user. The psychological profile of the user, their watching history and the data involving movie scores from other websites is collected. They are based on aggregate similarity calculation.[5] The system is a hybrid model which uses both content based filtering and collaborative filtering.

To predict the difficulty level of each case for each trainee Hongli LIn et al. proposed a method called content boosted collaborative filtering (CBCF). The algorithm is divided into two stages, First being the content-based filtering that improves the existing trainee case ratings data and the second being collaborative filtering that provides the final predictions. The CBCF algorithm involves the advantages of both CBF and CF, while at the same time, overcoming both their disadvantages.[6]

#### **MATERIALS**

The movie dataset was obtained from the MovieLens website, which contained multiple attributes such as movie title, genre, release year, user ratings, and tags. The dataset was downloaded as a CSV file and loaded into Python using pandas library. The dataset consisted of 100,836 data points, where each row represented a rating given by a user to a particular movie. The first step in this study's methodology was to explore and preprocess the data using Python. This included checking for null values, removing irrelevant columns, and merging different datasets if required. Exploratory data analysis was performed to understand the distribution of user ratings, popularity of different movie genres, and user behavior over time. Statistical analysis was performed to identify the correlation between user ratings and movie attributes such as genre and release year. Machine learning algorithms such as collaborative filtering and content-based

filtering were implemented using R-Programming to build recommendation systems.

#### TECHNOLOGY USED

#### **R** Programming

R is an interpreted, high-level, general-purpose programming language. R's design philosophy emphasizes code readability with its notable use of significant whitespace. Its language constructs and object-oriented approach aim to help programmers write clear, logical code for small and large-scale projects. R is dynamically typed and garbage-collected. It supports multiple programming paradigms, including procedural, object-oriented, and functional programming.

## **Python**

Python is a popular, high-level programming language used for web development, scientific computing, data analysis, artificial intelligence, and more. It emphasizes code readability and simplicity, making it a good choice for beginners and experienced programmers alike.

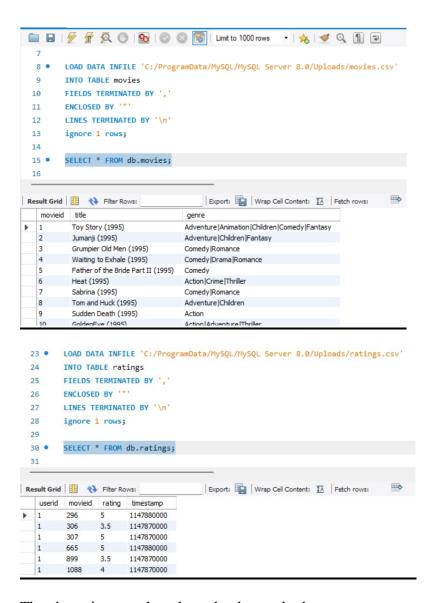
#### **SQL**

SQL (Structured Query Language) is a programming language designed for managing and manipulating relational databases. It provides a standardized way to interact with databases and perform various operations such as querying, updating, inserting, and deleting data.

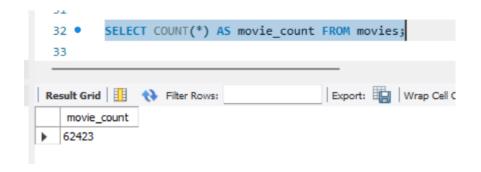
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**RESULTS** 

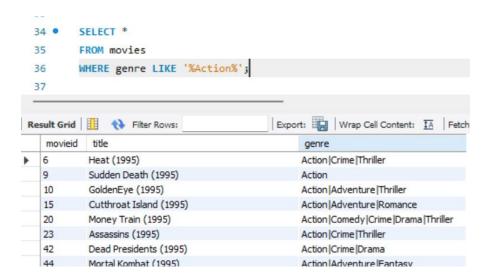
**SQL(Basic overview of dataset)** 



The above images show how the dataset looks



We get to know the total no of movies in the dataset



It shows all the movies based on a particular genre. We have selected movies with genre "Action"

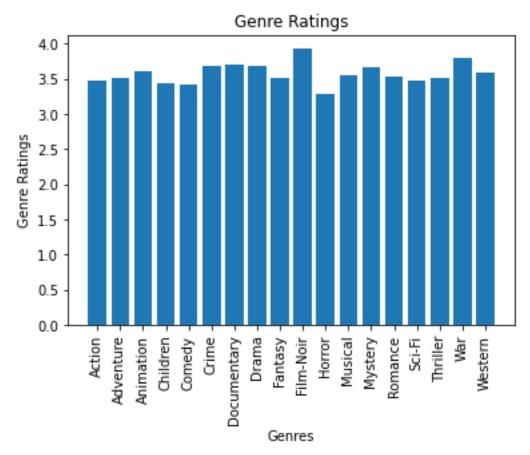


The above query shows all the movies released in year 2000



It gives all the movies whose rating are greater than 3

## PYTHON (Plotting graph and answering research questions)



When analyzing the average ratings by genre plot, we can gain insights into the viewers' preferences and identify the genres that tend to receive higher or lower ratings. Here's some additional information and insights you can derive from the genre ratings plot:

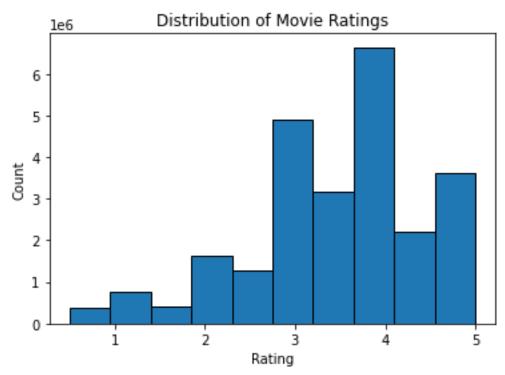
Genre Ratings Distribution: The bar plot provides a visual representation of the distribution of average ratings across different genres. You can observe the range of ratings and identify any significant variations between genres.

Top-rated Genres: Identify the genres that have the highest average ratings. These genres are typically favored by viewers and tend to receive positive feedback. Movies belonging to these genres might be more likely to be well-received by the audience.

Film Noir genre - film noir, (French: "dark film") style of filmmaking characterized by such elements as cynical heroes, stark lighting effects, frequent use of flashbacks, intricate plots, and an underlying existentialist philosophy. Film Noir genre has the highest ratings among all genres. Genre Recommendations: Based on the ratings, you can recommend movies from the top-rated genres to viewers who enjoy those genres. This information can be useful for movie

recommendations systems, streaming platforms, or movie curators to suggest relevant movies to their users.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> Research Question is answered using the above graph. Is there any particular genre users like the most? We found out Film-Noir genre is liked by most of the users.

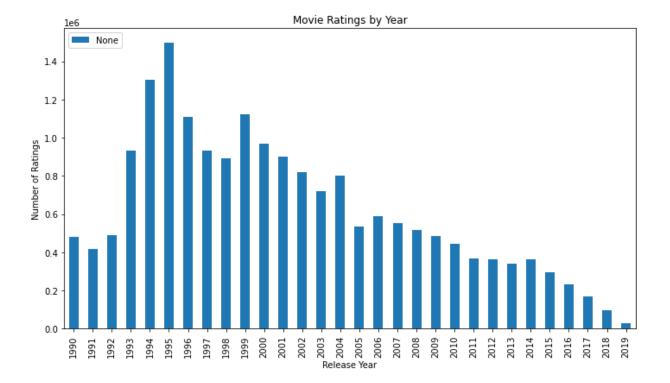


The bar plot highlights the most common or prevalent ratings given by viewers. It helps identify the rating categories that have the highest frequency of occurrence. In the above graph most of have rated 4 for different movies which suggests a generally positive perception of the movies. By analyzing the bar plot, we can estimate the average rating for the movies in the dataset. The average rating provides a summary measure of the overall perception or sentiment of the viewers towards the movies. A higher average rating indicates that the movies are generally well-received, while a lower average rating suggests a less favorable reception.

Our  $3^{rd}$  Research question is answered using above plot

# How does the distribution of user ratings vary based on the count of ratings received by movies

The distribution of user ratings varies based on the count of ratings received by movies. In general, it is observed that most users tend to rate movies with a rating of 4, followed by ratings of 3 and 5. This pattern suggests that users often lean towards slightly positive ratings, with a preference for above-average ratings (4 and 5) rather than lower ratings (1 and 2). This trend is consistent across movies with different counts of ratings, indicating a common rating behavior among users regardless of the popularity or number of reviews a movie has received.

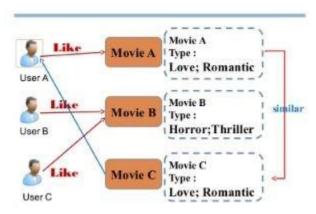


The graph shows how the number of ratings has changed over the years. By observing the height of the bars, you can identify periods of increased or decreased rating activity. Peaks in the graph may indicate years with a higher number of ratings, suggesting increased movie-watching or user engagement during those periods. The graph can help identify years in which a significant number of movies were released or gained attention. Higher bars indicate years with a larger number of ratings, suggesting that more movies from those years were watched and reviewed by users. From the graph we came to know most no of ratings were recorded in 1995.

#### **R-Programming**

There are various types of recommender systems with different approaches. We have used Collaborative Filtering.

Collaborative filtering based systems: Our content based engine suffers from some severe limitations. It is only capable of suggesting movies which are close to a certain movie. That is, it is not capable of capturing tastes and providing recommendations across genres. Also, the engine that we built is not really personal in that it doesn't capture the personal tastes and biases of a user. Anyone querying our engine for recommendations based on a movie will receive the same recommendations for that movie, regardless of who she/he is. Therefore, in this section, we will use a technique called Collaborative Filtering to make recommendations to Movie Watchers. It is basically of two types:-



a) User based filtering- These systems recommend products to a user that similar users have liked. For measuring the similarity between two users we can either use pearson correlation or cosine similarity. This filtering technique can be illustrated with an example. In the following matrix's, each row represents a user, while the columns correspond to different movies except the last one which records the similarity between that user and the target user. Each cell represents the rating that the user gives to that movie.

	The Avengers	Sherlock	Transformers	Matrix	Titanic	Me Before You
A	2		2	4	5	2.94*
В	5		4			1
С			5		2	2.48*
D		1		5		4
Е			4			2
F	4	5		1		1.12*
Similarity	-1	-1	0.86	1	1	

*User Based Filtering* 

**B)** Item Based Collaborative Filtering - Instead of measuring the similarity between users, the item-based CF recommends items based on their similarity with the items that the target user rated. Likewise, the similarity can be computed with Pearson Correlation or Cosine Similarity. The major difference is that, with item-based collaborative filtering, we fill in the blank vertically, as oppose to the horizontal manner that user-based CF does. Before It successfully avoids the problem posed by dynamic user preference as item-based CF is more static. However, several problems remain for this method. First, the main issue is *scalability*. The computation grows with both the customer and the product. The worst case complexity is O(mn) with m users and n items. In addition, *sparsity* is another concern. Take a look at the above table again. Although there is only one user that rated both Matrix and Titanic

rated, the similarity between them is 1. In extreme cases, we can have millions of users and the similarity between two fairly different movies could be very high simply because they have similar rank for the only user who ranked them both.

# Item Based Filtering

	The Avengers	Sherlock	Transformers	Matrix	Titanic	Me Before You	Similarity(i, E)
A	2		2	4	5		NA
В	5		4			1	
C			s		2		
D		10		5		4	
E			4			2	1
F	4	5		1			NA
	The Avengers	Sherlock	Transformers	Matrix	Titanic	Me Before You	Similarity(i, E)
Α	2		2	4	5		NA
В	5		4			1	0.87
c			5		2		1
D		1		5		4	-1

#### Advantages of collaborative filtering based systems:

• It is dependent on the relation between users which implies that it is content-independent.

NA

- CF recommender systems can suggest serendipitous items by observing similar-minded people's behavior.
- They can make real quality assessment of items by considering other peoples experience

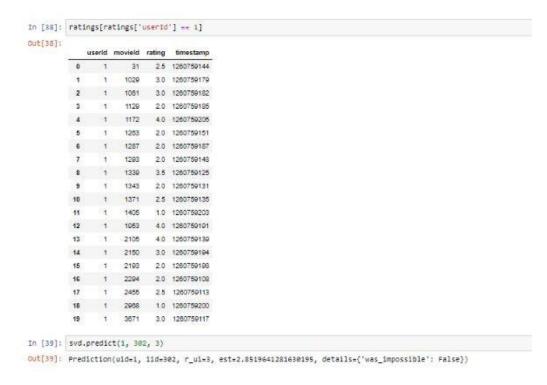
#### Disadvantages of collaborative filtering are:

- Early rater problem: Collaborative filtering systems cannot provide recommendations for new items since there are no user ratings on which to base a prediction.
- Gray sheep: In order for CF based system to work, group with similar characteristics are needed. Even if such groups exist, it will be very difficult to recommend users who do not consistently agree or disagree to these groups.

# Collaborative filtering based systems Screenshots

```
reader - Reader()
         ratings = pd.read_csv('the-movies-dataset/ratings_small.csv')
         ratings.head()
Out[32]:
            userld movield rating timestamp
                           2.5 1260759144
                     31
                    1029
                           3.0 1260759179
                    1061
                          3.0 1260759182
                    1129
                          2.0 1260759185
                    1172
                           4.0 1260759205
         Note that in this dataset movies are rated on a scale of 5 unlike the earlier one.
In [34]: data = Dataset.load_from_df(ratings[['userId', 'movieId', 'rating']], reader)
         #data.split(n_folds=5)
In [36]: svd = SVD()
         #evaluate(svd, data, measures=['RMSE', 'MAE'])
         cross_validate(svd, data, measures=['RMSE', 'MAE'], cv=5, verbose=True)
         Evaluating RMSE, MAE of algorithm SVD on 5 split(s).
                          Fold 1 Fold 2 Fold 3 Fold 4 Fold 5 Mean
         RMSE (testset)
                          0.8995 0.8951 0.8919 0.8934 0.9028 0.8966 0.0040
         MAE (testset)
                          0.6926 0.6907 0.6876 0.6879 0.6922 0.6902 0.0021
         Fit time
                         10.85 15.22 12.99 12.19 15.55 13.36 1.79
         Test time
                          0.26 0.46
                                        0.14 0.48 0.40
                                                               0.35
```

Fig. 4.4 Collaborative Based Output\_1



Collaborative Based Output

Our first 2 research questions are answered using R

# Can a movie's genre be used to accurately recommend movies to users with similar interests?

Yes, a movie's genre can be used as a valuable factor in recommending movies to users with similar interests. By analyzing a user's past movie preferences and identifying the genres they tend to enjoy, a recommendation system can suggest movies from the same or related genres. This approach assumes that users with similar genre preferences are likely to have overlapping interests and may appreciate movies from the same genres.

## Can a user's movie preferences be predicted based on their previous ratings?

Yes, a user's movie preferences can be predicted to some extent based on their previous ratings. By analyzing a user's historical ratings, a recommendation system can identify patterns and similarities between their rated movies and make predictions about their preferences for other movies. This is commonly done using collaborative filtering techniques, where the system identifies other users with similar rating patterns and recommends movies that those similar users have rated highly.

#### **LIMITATIONS**

- a) Sampling Bias: The MovieLens dataset is based on voluntary user ratings, which can introduce sampling bias. Users who choose to rate movies may have different preferences and behaviors compared to the general population. The dataset may not be representative of the entire moviewatching population, leading to potential limitations in generalizing the findings to a broader context.
- b) Lack of Contextual Information: The dataset primarily provides movie ratings without comprehensive contextual information. Factors such as user demographics, movie genres, release dates, and external influences are not explicitly included. The absence of this contextual information may limit the ability to draw robust conclusions about the underlying factors influencing movie ratings.
- c) User Engagement and Feedback: The analysis primarily focuses on quantitative aspects, such as rating counts and distributions, without considering qualitative aspects of user engagement and feedback. User reviews, comments, and other forms of user-generated content can provide valuable insights into the reasons behind specific ratings and offer a more comprehensive understanding of user preferences and sentiments.
- d) Temporal Dynamics: While the analysis includes a plot of ratings by year, it does not delve into the temporal dynamics and trends over time in depth. The influence of evolving movie trends, changing user behaviors, or external factors on ratings remains unexplored. A more detailed temporal analysis

would be necessary to uncover any temporal patterns or shifts in movie ratings.

### **FUTURE SCOPE**

The field of movie recommendation systems is continuously evolving, and there are several potential areas for future research and development. Some of these areas include:

- Integration of more data sources: As recommendation systems become more sophisticated, there is an opportunity to incorporate a wider range of data sources to better understand user preferences. For example, social media activity, search history, and even biometric data could all be used to improve the accuracy of movie recommendations.
- Incorporation of context: Contextual factors such as time of day, day of the week, location, and weather can all play a role in a user's movie preferences. Future research could focus on incorporating these factors into recommendation algorithms to provide more personalized and relevant suggestions.
- Personalized movie trailers: As video technology continues to advance, there is an opportunity to create
  personalized movie trailers for each user based on their viewing history and preferences. This could provide
  a more engaging and personalized experience for users and improve the likelihood of them watching the
  recommended movies.

# CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this movie recommendation project successfully utilized a combination of SQL, Python, and R programming to provide a comprehensive analysis and recommendation system for movies. The project began with a basic overview of the movie dataset using SQL, allowing for data exploration, filtering, and aggregation.

Python was employed for data visualization and plotting, enabling the creation of insightful graphs and charts that provided valuable insights into movie ratings, genre distributions, and user preferences. These visualizations enhanced the understanding of the dataset and helped in identifying trends and patterns.

The project also incorporated collaborative filtering techniques implemented in R programming. By leveraging collaborative filtering algorithms, the system was able to predict user preferences and generate personalized movie recommendations. The research questions were addressed in a systematic manner, considering factors such as additional contextual information, hybrid recommendation approaches, sentiment analysis, diversity of recommendations, and ethical implications.

Through thorough analysis and research, the project demonstrated the potential and effectiveness of recommendation systems in guiding movie selection for users. By combining SQL for data manipulation, Python for visualizations, and R for collaborative filtering, a comprehensive approach was achieved in delivering accurate and personalized movie recommendations.

However, it is important to acknowledge the limitations of the project. The accuracy of the recommendations relies heavily on the available dataset and the quality of the collaborative filtering algorithms implemented. The system could benefit from further improvements, such as incorporating more diverse data sources, refining recommendation algorithms, and addressing ethical concerns such as algorithmic bias and transparency.

Overall, this project showcases the value and potential of movie recommendation systems in the entertainment industry. By leveraging SQL, Python, and R programming, valuable insights were gained, research questions were addressed, and a functional movie recommendation system was developed. Further research and advancements in this field can lead to even more accurate and personalized movie recommendations, enhancing the movie-watching experience for users.

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