CSE3505 – FOUNDATIONS OF DATA ANALYTICS

J Component – Project Report

TITLE: Coursera Course Recommendation System

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BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE

Certified that this project report entitled "Course Recommendation System" is a bonafide work of Deekshitha. L – 19MIA1030 and K Niharika Samyuktha – 19MIA1083 who carried out the J-component under my supervision and guidance. The contents of this Project work, in full or in parts, have neither been taken from any other source nor have been submitted to any other Institute or University for award of any degree or diploma and the same is certified.

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ABSTRACT

Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) introduces the use of technology for the learning purposes. Exploration of the possibilities of TEL led to the development of many solutions and recently to Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). MOOCs are capable of providing severalten thousand of learners with access to courses over the web. MOOCs have recently gained much attention especially in leading universities and are now often considered as a highly promising form of teaching. In recent years, MOOCs have gained popularity with learners and providers, and thus MOOC providers have started to further enhance the use of MOOCs through recommender systems.

Since information retrieval and searching for the appropriate learning resources is an essential activity in TEL, the development of recommender systems for learning has seen increased attention. In this work, we address this major problem – the difficulty for learners to find courses which best fit their personal interests. We propose a system that recommends appropriate course from Coursera in response to a specific request of the learner. Using the Content - Based filtering methods and a special retrieval information technique, the system proposes to the learners the most appropriate courses fitting her/his request based on learner profile, needs and knowledge. Thus, users will not feel tired while perceiving information of their interest and will keep engaged and interested to use the system as it works upon the interest and likes of the user.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the emergence of online education platforms and massive open online courses (MOOCs) has attracted widespread interest. The establishment of various MOOCs platforms, including XuetangX, Chinese University MOOC, and Coursera, provides convenient education for more than 100 million users around the world, and provides a low-cost opportunity to access excellent courses in many top universities. Due to its convenience and abundance of teaching resources, online learning has gradually become a common way of learning. Especially due to the influence of COVID-19 in recent two years, traditional teaching methods have become difficult to implement in many places. The rapid development of online learning has changed the traditional teaching mode and made people study anytime and anywhere a reality. Online learning has become an important way for people to learn knowledge, expand their skills, and conduct academic research.

However, while online learning brings many conveniences, it also leads to the increasingly serious problem of information overload. Due to the rapid growth of the number of educational resources, it has gradually become difficult for people to choose suitable courses for learning. The recommender system is an effective means to solve the information overload. Given the historical interaction data of users and items, the recommender system can effectively capture hidden information such as the user's personalized preferences and item attributes based on these data, so as to obtain information from appropriate materials filtered out from the massive resources and displayed to users. At present, recommendation systems have been widely used in the fields of ecommerce and social media platforms, and have become an important part of many portals, playing an increasingly important role.

LITERATURE SURVEY

S.NO	TITLE	AUTHORS	METHOD	RESULT
1.	A Recommendation System for Online Courses	David Estrela, Sérgio Batista, Diogo Martinho, and Goreti Marreiros	Content based, Collaborative based, Hybrid	Works well accordingly but has few drawbacks like not able to recommend immediately after being registered since there is no sufficient data.
2.	A Course Recommender System Based on Graduating Attributes	Behdad Bankshinategh, Gerasimos Spanakis, Osmar Zaiane and Samira ElAtia	Graduating Attributes	Provides further avenues of improving and experimenting
3.	Online course recommendation System	Supreeth S Avadhani , Siddharth Somani , Vaibhav Nayak , Sudhanva.BS	KNN, K-means and Collaborative Filtering methods	Results with the point that Collaborative filtering is not an effective method.
4.	A review on Recommender Systems for course selection in higher education	N D Lynn and A W R Emanuel	Hybrid, Knowledge based, Content based, Collaborative based.	Hybrid approach is concluded as the best one.

S.NO	TITLE	AUTHORS	METHOD	RESULT
5.	A Recommender System for the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC)	Henda Chorfi Ouertani , Monerah Mohammed Alawadh	Content based methods	
6.	MOOC-Rec: A case based recommender system for MOOCs	Bousbahi, Fatiha & Chorfi, Henda.	Case-based recommenders (CBR) are a form of content-based recommendation. To ensure that the most similar cases are retrieved, the retrieval algorithm computes similarity bounds.	A binary tree is used to split the case library into groups of cases in such a way that each group contains cases that are similar to each other. The data base does not need to be excessively large, since we need only enough features to search for similar cases.
7.	Recommender System in eLearning: A survey(2020)	Pradnya V. Kulkarni, Sunil Rai, Rohini Kale	Three level hidden Bayesian linkPrediction (3- HBP) model - Collaborative DeepLearning	Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) is one of the alternatives for Collaborative Deep Learning (CDL)

DATASET AND TOOLS

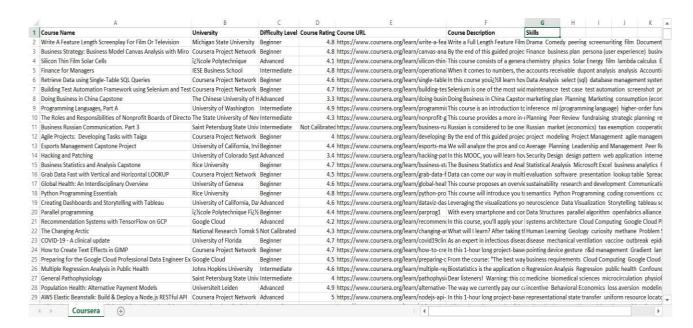
The Dataset is taken from Kaggle repository. This dataset was scraped off the publicly available information on the Coursera website in September 2021 and manually entered in the case where the data was improperly scraped. It can be used in Recommender Systems to promote Coursera courses based on the Difficulty Level and the Skills needed.

Its size is about 2MB. This contains 7 columns in it. Those attributes are:

- 1. Course Name
- 2. University
- 3. Difficulty Level
- 4. Course Rating
- 5. Course URL
- 6. Course Description
- 7. Skills

The tool used to carry forward the implementation of the project is Google Collab.

COURSERA DATASE



PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

A content-based course recommendation system will recommend courses related to the previous experiences of its users, according to their preferences and needs by calculating the similarity measures. Content-based similarity filtering based on the course tags which the userseither watch or search is being used. Through Data Exploration and Visualization, we planned to extract the required data alone for the further process of work. The important attributes to be used for model building are Course Title, Course Description, Difficulty level, Skills. Then we started with NLP model for building the recommendation engine using TF-IDF vectorizer. This model is built in such a way that, when you search for a course using a description (tags), the recommender engine recommenders us the Top N related and similar Courses' Title. We created the TAGS column, where this tags column is the combination of the following columns: Course Name, Difficulty Level, Course Description, Skills. The NLP process includes data preprocessing. An important part of the process is to pre-process the data into usable format for the recommendation system. We removed the spaces between the words.

In the later part of implementing Count Vectorization, A data frame was created which contains only the Course Name and Tags. After this process, we get the recommendation engine which recommends the relevant courses for us.

ALGORITHMS USED

BERT (Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers)

BERT is an open-source machine learning framework for natural language processing (NLP). BERT is designed to help computers understand the meaning of ambiguous language in text by using surrounding text to establish context. BERT is an ML/NLP technique developed by Google that uses a transformer-based ML model to convert phrases, words, etc. into vectors. BERT relies on a Transformer (the attention mechanism that learns contextual relationships between words in a text). A basic Transformer consists of an encoder to read the text input and a decoder to produce a prediction for the task. Since BERT's goal is to generate a language representation model, it only needs the encoder part. The input to the encoder for BERT is a sequence of tokens, which are first converted into vectors and then processed in the neural network.

Count Vectorizer

It is used to transform a given text into a vector on the basis of the frequency (count) of each word that occurs in the entire text. It converts a collection of text documents to a matrix of token counts. Count Vectorizer creates a matrix in which each unique word is represented by a column of the matrix, and each text sample from the document is a row in the matrix. The value of each cell is nothing but the count of the word in that particular text sample.

• Cosine Similarity

Cosine similarity is a metric, helpful in determining, how similar the data objects are irrespective of their size. It ranges from -1 to 1. 1 indicates the items are the same whereas -1 represents the compared items are dissimilar. Cosine similarity is independent of the magnitude or the size of the vectors. The cosine similarity is beneficial because even if the two similar data objects are far apart by the Euclidean distance because of the size, they could still have a smaller angle between them. Smaller the angle, higher the similarity.

EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

• DATA CLEANING

This dataframe contains some useless columns which must be dropped for a better analytics result uc = ['Course URL']

df = df.drop(columns=uc)

df.head()

8		Course Name	University	Difficulty Level	Course Rating
	0	Write A Feature Length Screenplay For Film Or	Michigan State University	Beginner	4.8
	1	Business Strategy: Business Model Canvas Analy	Coursera Project Network	Beginner	4.8
	2	Silicon Thin Film Solar Cells	♦cole Polytechnique	Advanced	4.1
	3	Finance for Managers	IESE Business School	Intermediate	4.8
	4	Retrieve Data using Single-Table SQL Queries	Coursera Project Network	Beginner	4.6

• REMOVING NULL VALUES

print("Are there any missing values in the dataset ?",df.isna().values.any())

Are there any missing values in the dataset ? False

complete summary of dataset df.describe().T

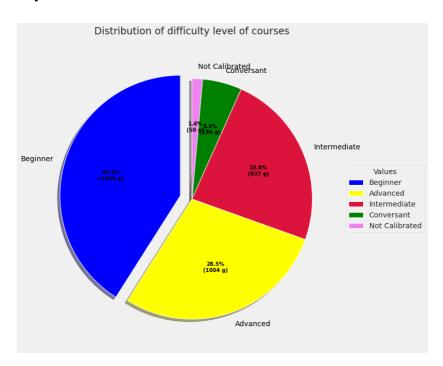
count unique top freq

Course Name 3522 3416 Google Cloud Platform Fundamentals: Core Infra... 8

Course Name	3522	3416	Google Cloud Platform Fundamentals: Core Infra	8
University	3522	184	Coursera Project Network	562
Difficulty Level	3522	5	Beginner	1444
Course Rating	3522	31	4.7	740
Course Description	3522	3397	This course introduces you to important concep	8
Skills	3522	3424	Google Cloud Platform Big Data Cloud Infrast	8

VISUALIZATION

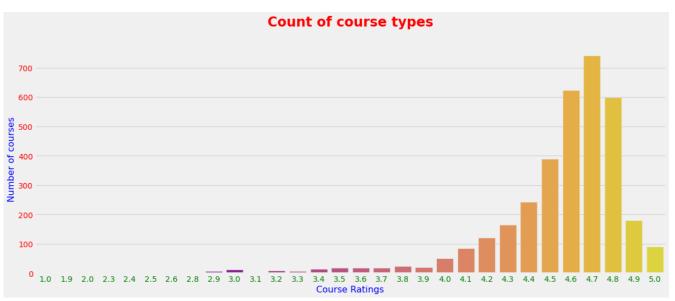
Difficulty level of courses



We visualized the distribution of difficulty level of the courses using a Pie-chart. It states us the data weightage of the attribute's each value. It contains the types, Beginner, Advanced, Intermediate, Conversant and Not calibrated.

From this plot, we get to know that The Beginner level courses are available the most.

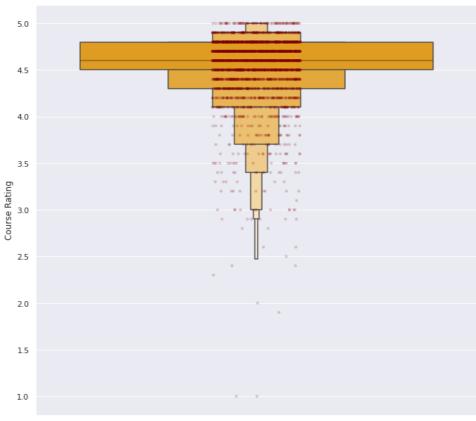
Count of Course type



This plot shows us the count of every type of course. This plot is plotted against the Number of courses and the Course ratings.

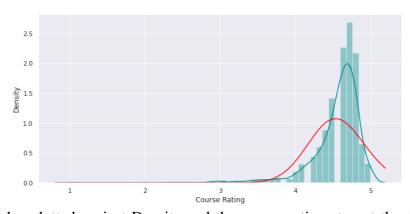
Course rating Distribution

Course Rating Distribution



This Box plot shows us the range and distribution of the course ratings.

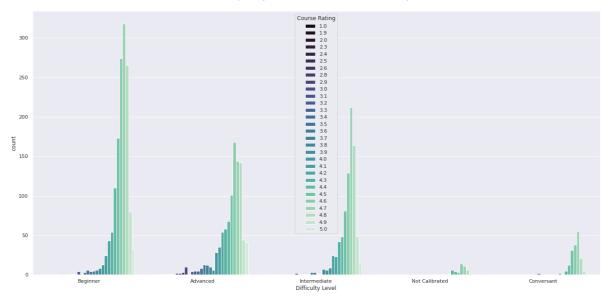
Course Rating Distribution



Again, this plot also plotted against Density and the course ratings to get the distribution of the ratings.

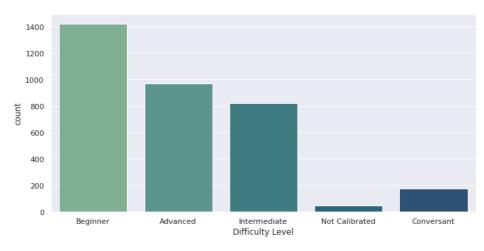
❖ Frequency based on Difficulty level

Frequency Distribution based on Difficulty



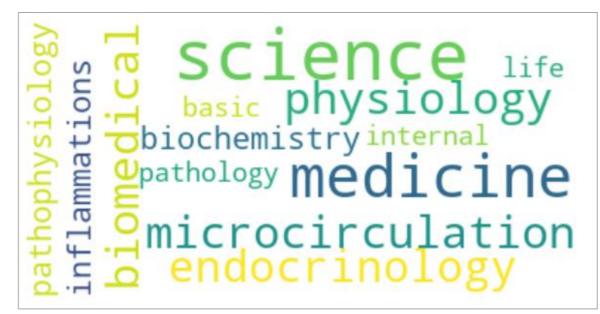
Distribution per course type

Count of courses - Difficulty Level

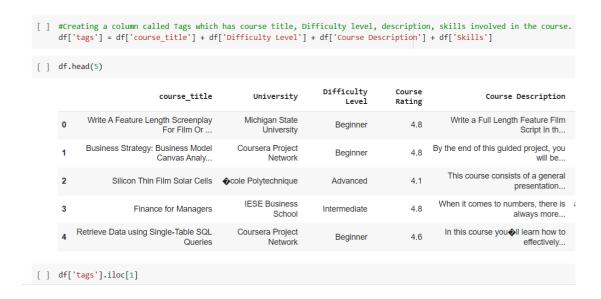


Word cloud





♣ CREATING TAGS





↓ TEXT PREPROCESSING

Text preprocessing involves transforming text into a clean and consistent format that can then be fed into a model for further analysis and learning. Text preprocessing techniques may be general so that they are applicable to many types of applications, or they can be specialized for a specific task.

Some of the common text preprocessing / cleaning steps are:

- 1. Lower casing.
- 2. Removal of Frequent words.
- 3. Stemming

Before building the engine, we did Text preprocessing using Stemming process. Stemming is the process of removing a part of a word or reducing a word to its stem or root. Stemming is important in natural language understanding (NLU) and natural language processing (NLP).

♣ FEATURE EXTRACTION

Feature extraction is a process of dimensionality reduction by which an initial set of raw data is reduced to more manageable groups for processing. Feature extraction is the name for methods that select and /or combine variables into features, effectively reducing the amount of data that must be processed, while still accurately and completely describing the original data set.

Some of the feature extraction techniques to convert text into a matrix(or vector) of features. Some of the most popular methods of feature extraction are:

- Bag-of-Words (Count Vectorizer)
- BERT

↓ Count Vectorizer – (Bag of Words)

♣ RECOMMENDATION ENGINE - Recommending courses related to Database and SQL

```
recommend('Retrieve Data using Single-Table SQL Queries')
-----: Similar courses to your search -----:
Creating Database Tables with SQL
Manipulating Data with SQL
Create Relational Database Tables Using SQLiteStudio
Retrieve Data with Multiple-Table SOL Oueries
Advanced SQL Retrieval Queries in SQLiteStudio
Relational Database Support for Data Warehouses
SQL for Data Science
Querying Databases Using SQL SELECT statement
Databases and SQL for Data Science
Databases and SQL for Data Science
Databases and SQL for Data Science
Structured Query Language (SQL) using SAS
Data in Database
Managing Big Data with MySQL
Performing Data Definition and Manipulation in SQL
Foundations for Big Data Analysis with SQL
Advanced Features with Relational Database Tables Using SQLiteStudio
Build a Database from a Relational Model
Performing Data Aggregation using SQL Aggregate Functions
Introduction to Clinical Data Science
Introduction to Data Analytics
Using Databases with Python
Accounting Data Analytics with Python
Complex Retrieval Queries in MySQL Workbench
Relational database systems
Intermediate Relational Database and SQL
Database Design and Diagramming in Dia
Data Management and Visualization
Mastering SQL Joins
Big Data Modeling and Management Systems
Excel Basics for Data Analysis
Designing data-intensive applications
Applied Data Science Capstone
Applied Data Science Capstone
```

BERT Model

♣ GET EMBEDDINGS

```
from sentence_transformers import SentenceTransformer

bert=SentenceTransformer('bert-base-nli-mean-tokens')

#Get Embeddings
sentence_embeddings=bert.encode(new_df['tags'].tolist())
```

♣ COMPUTING DISTNCE – USING COSINE SIMILARITY

```
#Compute similarity
similarity1=cosine_similarity(sentence_embeddings)
def bert_recommend(course):
    course_index = new_df[new_df['course_title'] == course].index[0]
    distances = similarity1[course_index]
    course_list = sorted(list(enumerate(distances)),reverse=True, key=lambda x:x[1])[1:35]

for i in course_list:
    print(new_df.iloc[i[0]].course_title)
```

RECOMMENDATION ENGINE

Recommending courses related to Database and SQL

```
bert_recommend('Retrieve Data using Single-Table SQL Queries')
Create Relational Database Tables Using SQLiteStudio
Performing Data Definition and Manipulation in SQL
Introduction to Structured Query Language (SQL)
Introduction to Relational Database and SQL
Simple Retrieval Queries in MySQL Workbench
Beginning SQL Server
Databases and SQL for Data Science
Databases and SQL for Data Science
Databases and SQL for Data Science
Analyzing Big Data with SQL
Performing Data Aggregation using SQL Aggregate Functions
Exploring ?and ?Preparing ?your ?Data with BigQuery
Advanced SQL Retrieval Queries in SQLiteStudio
Foundations for Big Data Analysis with SQL
Advanced Relational Database and SQL
Manipulating Data with SQL
Retrieve Data with Multiple-Table SQL Queries
Mastering SQL Joins
Introduction to Cybersecurity for Business
Structured Query Language (SQL) using SAS
Building Basic Relational Databases in SQL Server Management Studio
Querying Databases Using SQL SELECT statement
Achieving Advanced Insights with BigQuery
Creating Database Tables with SQL
Intermediate Relational Database and SQL
Rails with Active Record and Action Pack
Advanced Features with Relational Database Tables Using SQLiteStudio
Creating New BigQuery Datasets and Visualizing Insights
Building a Text-Based Bank in Java
Database Management Essentials
Understanding Your Google Cloud Platform (GCP) Costs
Database Design with SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS)
Getting Started with Google Sheets
Applying Machine Learning to your Data with GCP
```

MODEL EVALUATION

We have evaluated the recommendations using one of the evaluation metrics called Precision. Precision is a metric that quantifies the number of correct positive predictions made. Precision, therefore, calculates the accuracy for the minority class. It is calculated as the ratio of correctly predicted positive examples divided by the total number of positive examples that were predicted. Precision is the percentage of your results which are relevant. It is a good measure to determine, when the cost of False Positive is high.

CONFUSION MATRIX:

	Predicted Positives	Predicted Negatives
Positives	True Positives	False Negatives
Negatives	False Positives	True Negatives

 $Precision = \frac{True \ Positives}{True \ Positives + False \ Positives}$

DISCUSSION ON RESULTS

Precision evaluates how precise a model is in predicting positive labels. We calculated the value of precision manually by recommending Top 35 courses that are related to the courses searched by the user.

The precision values for our built models are as follows:

For 35 samples,

- Precision of CountVectorization model = 0.73
- Precision of BERT = 0.79

CONCLUSION

BERT model is better than CountVectorizer. This is due to CountVectorizer's inability to distinguish between words that are more and less significant for analysis. It will only take into account the most statistically significant terms that are common in a corpus. Whereas, BERT is pretrained on a lot of data and it accounts for a word's context. BERT returns different vectors for the same word depending on the words around it. BERT model gave more precise recommendations when compared to CountVectorizer. Thus, we were able to recommend the related courses based on the content or description of the course.

REPOSITORY LINK

https://github.com/K-Niharika31/COURSE-RECOMMENDATION-SYSTEM

https://github.com/Deekshi2020/COURSE-RECOMMENDATION

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