MOVIE RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM

A MINI PROJECT REPORT

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Certified that this is the bonafide record of work done by the above students in the Mini Project titled "**MOVIE RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM**" in the subject **AI23331 – FUNDAMENTALS OF MACHINE LEARNING** during the year **2024 - 2025.**

Signature of Faculty – in – Charge

Submitted for the Practical Examination held on --------------------

Internal Examiner   **External Examiner**

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ABSTRACT

This project presents a Movie Recommendation System built using the Flask framework, designed to provide personalized movie suggestions based on user input. The system utilizes a pre-trained machine learning model that applies Cosine Similarity to recommend similar movies from a dataset of English movie titles. By leveraging the TMDB (The Movie Database) API, the application dynamically fetches real-time movie details, including ratings, genres, synopses, cast, posters, and trailers, enhancing the recommendations.

The system allows users to input a movie title, and it returns the top 10 similar movies along with detailed information. It also offers a movie title suggestion feature that handles partial or misspelled movie titles, providing relevant suggestions using difflib.get_close_matches. Additionally, the application displays trending movies, fetching popular content in real-time from the TMDB API.

The integration of machine learning for content-based recommendations, real-time data from TMDB, and a user-friendly interface creates an intuitive and engaging platform for movie discovery. This system provides a seamless experience for users to find new movies based on their preferences, making the process of movie exploration both personalized and interactive.

Introduction

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The **Movie recommendation** system is a dynamic solution designed to assist users in discovering movies that align with their preferences. By analyzing movie metadata such as genres, directors, cast, and descriptions, the system employs content-based filtering to suggest films with similar features to those a user enjoys.

Additionally, it integrates external data from the TMDB API to provide a richer user experience, offering details like posters, trailers, ratings, and synopses. This project combines the power of machine learning and web development to build an accessible and efficient recommendation tool.

1.2 OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

- **Personalization:** Develop a tailored recommendation mechanism that understands user preferences.

- **Data Enrichment:** Leverage TMDB API to provide comprehensive details about recommended movies.

- **User Experience:** Create a seamless and interactive interface using Flask for easy navigation.

- **Scalability:** Ensure the system can handle large datasets and multiple user queries efficiently

1.3 NEED FOR THE PROPOSED SYSTEM

The need for the proposed system arises from the challenges users face when navigating vast movie libraries on streaming platforms. With an overwhelming number of choices, users often experience decision fatigue, leading to dissatisfaction or disengagement. This system simplifies the selection process by delivering personalized recommendations tailored to user preferences.

Unlike existing systems tied to specific streaming services, this standalone solution offers a platform-agnostic approach, making it versatile and

universally applicable. The integration of the TMDB API adds real-time movie information, such as posters, ratings, and trending titles, ensuring the system remains up-to-date and useful.

By leveraging advanced algorithms and metadata analysis, the system provides accurate and contextually relevant suggestions, going beyond basic keyword matching. Its accessibility via a web interface ensures ease of use for a wide audience.

In summary, the system addresses the critical need for personalized, enriched, and efficient movie recommendations, enhancing both user experience and content discovery in a saturated entertainment landscape.

1.4 APPLICATIONS OF PROPOSED SYSTEM

1. **Deployment Across Multiple Platforms:**
   The system can be deployed on various platforms, including movie streaming services, entertainment websites, and mobile applications, providing users with personalized movie recommendations.

2. **Integration with Existing Platforms:**
   It can be integrated into existing streaming platforms or entertainment websites to enhance user engagement by offering tailored movie suggestions based on individual preferences.

3. **Enhancement of User Satisfaction:**
   By providing intelligent, data-driven movie recommendations, the system improves user experience, helping users quickly discover movies that match their interests.

4. **Use by Developers and Entertainment Platforms:**
   Developers and entertainment platforms can leverage this system to build their movie recommendation engines, powered by real-time data from TMDB and machine learning techniques, to provide an improved and personalized browsing experience.

5. **Extension to TV Shows and Other Entertainment:**

The system can be expanded to recommend not only movies but also TV shows, documentaries, and other forms of entertainment, making it a versatile tool in the entertainment industry.

6. **Broader Applications in Entertainment Industry:**
   Beyond individual platforms, this system can be adopted by a wide range of entertainment services to enhance content discovery, increase user retention, and boost overall engagement across various media formats.

1.5 SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

The system caters to English movies, focusing on their metadata to generate relevant suggestions. While primarily based on content-based filtering, the architecture is adaptable for future integration with collaborative or hybrid algorithms. The project is designed to function as a web application, accessible through browsers, with real-time API calls to fetch trending or related movie details.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Movie recommendation systems have evolved significantly, with numerous algorithms developed to provide personalized suggestions based on user preferences. These systems primarily fall into three categories: collaborative filtering, content-based filtering, and hybrid models.

2.1 TYPES OF RECOMMENDATION SYSTEMS:

Collaborative Filtering: This method recommends movies by analyzing patterns in user-item interactions, relying either on similarities between users or between items. However, collaborative filtering faces limitations, especially the "cold start" problem, where new users or items with insufficient data are challenging to handle effectively.

Content-Based Filtering: In contrast, content-based systems recommend items based on the features of the items themselves, such as genre, cast, or director. One widely used technique is cosine similarity, which measures the similarity between movie features in a multi-dimensional space. This method excels when user interaction data is limited, allowing the system to suggest items based on their inherent properties.

Hybrid Models: Hybrid recommendation models combine the advantages of both collaborative and content-based approaches. These systems have shown improvements in recommendation diversity and accuracy, particularly by addressing the limitations of both individual methods.

2.2 EXISTING SYSTEMS:

Major platforms such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video integrate both collaborative and content-based filtering, providing a more robust recommendation engine.
Several research studies and implementations have used TMDB (The Movie Database) API to fetch real-time movie data for recommendations, similar to the approach taken in this project. Real-time data enhances the system's accuracy by incorporating current movie ratings, reviews, and other up-to-date information.

2.3 WHAT WE DID:

Building on these existing approaches, the proposed system primarily focuses on content-based filtering to recommend movies based on movie attributes like genre, director, and cast.

The system integrates the TMDB API, which provides real-time movie data, including movie details, trailers, and cast information, enhancing the recommendations.

To improve the recommendation quality, we employed cosine similarity to compute the similarity between movies based on their features. This allows us to recommend similar movies even with limited user interaction history, addressing some gaps identified in previous research.

2.4 KEY FINDINGS AND GAPS:

Existing literature emphasizes the importance of real-time data, which we have incorporated through the TMDB API, aligning with recommendations from previous studies for more accurate, up-to-date suggestions.
Our approach also highlights the importance of enhancing user satisfaction through personalized recommendations based on both static and dynamic movie features.

2.5 APPLICATIONS IN THE MOVIE INDUSTRY

The movie industry has seen a significant impact from recommendation systems, particularly on streaming platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Disney+. These systems analyze user ratings, watch histories, and preferences to suggest relevant titles, enhancing user satisfaction and increasing engagement metrics.

PROBLEM FORMULATION

3.1 MAIN OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of this project is to develop a machine learning-based movie recommendation system that uses content-based filtering to suggest movies to users based on their preferences. The system should recommend movies that are similar to the one a user searches for and provide detailed information about the suggested movies.

3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

1. To create a user-friendly web application that allows users to search for movies and receive personalized recommendations.
2. To integrate real-time movie data from the TMDB API to provide users with up-to-date movie details such as ratings, genres, synopses, and trailers.
3. To implement a recommendation engine using cosine similarity to generate accurate movie suggestions based on input titles.
4. To ensure the system is responsive and easy to use across devices, improving user interaction and experience.

3.3 METHODOLOGY

The methodology for this project involves several key steps: data collection, model building, and system implementation. The first step is to integrate the TMDB API to collect movie data.

Then, a content-based recommendation model using cosine similarity is built to calculate similarity scores between movies based on their features. After developing the recommendation engine, the Flask web framework is used to create a simple interface for users to interact with the system.

Finally, testing and evaluation ensure the recommendation system works accurately, providing relevant suggestions based on user input.

3.4 PLATFORM

The platform chosen for this project is Flask, a lightweight Python framework, because of its simplicity and ability to handle web-based applications.
The recommendation engine is built using Python, with libraries such as Pandas for data handling and Requests for interacting with the TMDB API.
The system runs on any standard web server, providing users with an interactive interface that can be accessed via browsers

SYSTEM ANALYSIS AND DESIGN

4.1 FACT FINDING

The fact-finding process involved determining the user requirements for the movie recommendation system, including the need for personalized suggestions, detailed movie information, and real-time data updates.
The system's design was based on the analysis of user expectations, such as providing an easy-to-use interface and accurate recommendations. Data collection through the TMDB API was also a key factor, as it ensured that the system would provide up-to-date movie details to users.

4.2 FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS

The feasibility of the proposed system was evaluated across several dimensions:

- **Technical Feasibility:** The system relies on open-source libraries like Flask and Pandas, making it easy to develop and implement. Integration with the TMDB API is straightforward and well-documented, ensuring smooth data fetching.

- **Economic Feasibility:** The system is low-cost, as it uses open-source tools and free access to the TMDB API, which has a generous quota for basic usage.

- **Operational Feasibility:** The system is easy to deploy on a web platform, with minimal hardware requirements. The Flask framework supports scalability, making it feasible to handle growing user traffic.

SYSTEM DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE

5.1 PROJECT WORKFLOW

A user inputs a movie title through the web interface.
The system identifies the most similar movie titles using text-matching techniques.
Recommendations are generated by calculating the cosine similarity between the selected movie and others in the dataset.
TMDB API enriches the results with details such as ratings, trailers, and posters.
Recommendations are presented in a user-friendly layout.

5.2 TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGIES USED

Python: Core programming language for development.
Libraries: Pandas for data handling, Scikit-learn for machine learning, and Requests for API integration.
Flask: Framework for creating the web application.

5.3 RECOMMENDATION ALGORITHMS

CONTENT-BASED FILTERING

Content-based filtering is a technique that generates recommendations by analyzing the features of items a user likes and finding similar ones. This method uses the metadata associated with movies, such as genres, cast, directors, and descriptions, to represent each movie in a feature space.

5.3.1 FEATURE EXTRACTION

In the provided code, the movie metadata is extracted and processed into feature vectors. This includes:
- **Genres:** Identifying the type of movie (e.g., action, drama, comedy).
- **Cast and Directors:** Important contributors to a movie's style and appeal.
- **Tags/Descriptions:** Combining Genres, Directors, Actors/Actresses.

The metadata is pre-processed into a matrix format where each row corresponds to a movie, and each column represents a feature.

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5.3.2 SIMILARITY CALCULATION

To find similar movies, the algorithm computes the cosine similarity between feature vectors. Cosine similarity measures the angle between two vectors in a multidimensional space, indicating their closeness.
In the code:
- The precomputed cosine similarity matrix (cosin_sim_en) stores the pairwise similarity scores between all movies.
- When a user inputs a movie title, the system finds its vector representation and retrieves the most similar vectors from the matrix, excluding the input movie itself.

Cosine Distance/Similarity
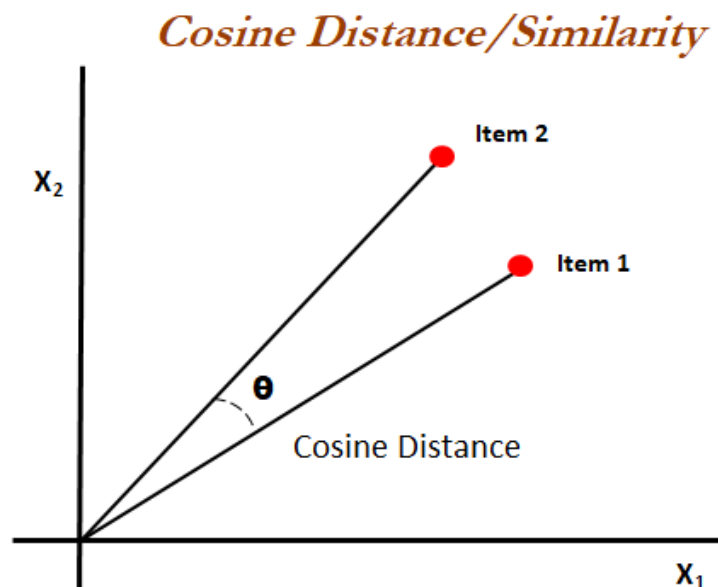
5.3.3 IMPLEMENTATION
Here's how the code works:
1. Identify the Movie: The input movie title is matched to the closest existing title in the dataset using string similarity (difflib).
2. Retrieve Similar Movies: Using the cosine similarity matrix, the top 10 similar movies are identified based on their scores.
3. Fetch Additional Data: The TMDB API is used to enrich the recommendations with detailed metadata, such as posters, ratings, and synopses.

5.4 SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE OVERVIEW

1. User Interface (UI)

➤ Web Browser: The user interacts with the system via a web interface (HTML, CSS, JavaScript), where they can input the movie title and view recommendations.

2. Frontend (Flask Application)

➤ Flask Web Framework: Handles user requests, renders the homepage, and serves movie recommendations or trending movies.
➤ Template Rendering: HTML pages (like index.html) are rendered, which includes the recommendations returned by the backend.

3. Backend (Application Logic)

➤ Recommendation Logic: Implements the content-based filtering recommendation algorithm, where movie recommendations are fetched based on similarities with the input movie (using the cosine similarity model and movie dataset).
➤ TMDB API Integration to fetch additional movie details like genre, rating, trailer, etc.
➤ Movie Dataset A preloaded dataset (English_Movie_Recommendation.pkl) containing movie names and their associated metadata used for generating recommendations.

4. External APIs:

➤ TMDB API: The Movie Database (TMDB) API is used to fetch detailed information about movies, such as synopsis, cast, director, rating, and poster. The API is also used to retrieve trending movies.

5. Model/Recommendation Engine:

➤ Cosine Similarity Model: A pre-trained machine learning model (cosin_sim_en) that helps find the closest matches for a given movie title to recommend similar movies.

6. Components in the Diagram:

1. User Interface (UI)
➤ The user enters a movie title via the search bar.

2. Flask Backend

- **Recommendation Engine:**
  - Calls the dataset (English_Movie_Recommendation.pkl) to retrieve relevant movie details.
  - Calculates similarity scores using cosine similarity.
  - Fetches movie details from the TMDB API.
- **TMDB API Integration:**
  - Fetches movie information (title, genre, rating, cast, synopsis) based on movie ID.

3. **External API (TMDB API)**
   - Provides information about the movie such as genres, cast, ratings, synopsis, and poster image.

4. **Recommendation Logic**
   - Implements the filtering logic and gets similar movie suggestions based on the input title.

5. **Database/Preloaded Dataset**
   - A dataset that includes movie names, genres, and other metadata used for generating recommendations.
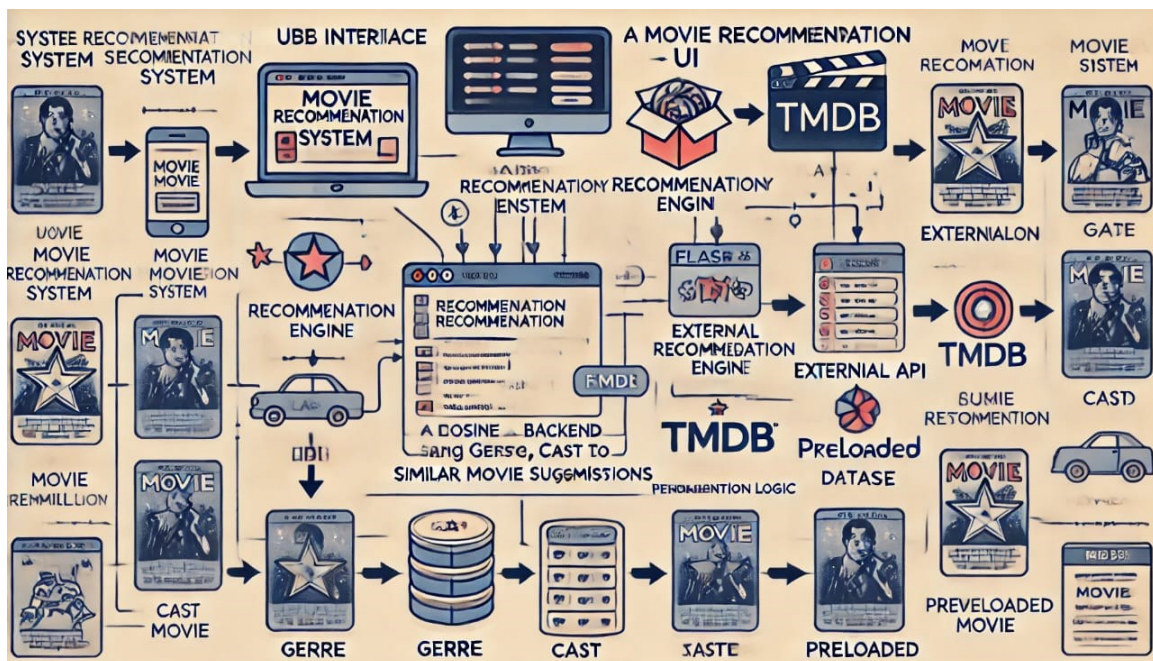
FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION

1. Input Processing

> - User Input: The system accepts movie titles or search queries.
> - Sanitization: It processes the input by removing extra spaces and converting the query to lowercase to ensure consistency.

2. Feature Extraction

> - Movie Metadata: The system extracts features such as genre, director, actors, and plot descriptions from the movie dataset.
> - Preprocessing: The dataset is cleaned and missing values are handled for accurate recommendations.

3. Dimensionality Reduction

> - Cosine Similarity: Cosine similarity is used to compare movies based on their features, reducing computational complexity while preserving key information.
> - Pre-trained Model: The cosine similarity model is pre-trained on the movie dataset to efficiently find similar movies.

4. Feature Mapping

> - Vectorization: Features (genre, director, actors) are mapped into vector representations, similar to flattening feature maps in handwriting recognition.

5. Classification/Recommendation

> - Movie Recommendation: Based on the input title, the system uses fuzzy matching to find the closest match and recommends the top 10 most similar movies based on cosine similarity scores.

6. Error Handling and Feedback

> - Error Handling: If no exact match is found, the system provides fallback suggestions or a "movie not found" message.
> - Feedback: The system suggests the closest matching movies using fuzzy string matching.

7. Integration and Real-World Application

- Web Application: The system is integrated into web apps, enabling users to discover similar movies.
- Personalized Suggestions: It provides tailored recommendations based on user input, enhancing the movie discovery experience.

8. Scalability and Adaptability

- Scalable: The system can handle a growing number of movies and genres.
- Retraining: The model can be retrained with new data (e.g., genres, ratings) to improve recommendations.

TESTING

The Movie Recommendation System uses several key steps to deliver accurate and relevant recommendations to the user. Here's an explanation of how the system works and why the results for the test case with Inception were successful:

1. Input Processing

Input: The system receives "Inception" as a movie title from the user.
Sanitization: The input is processed by removing extra spaces and converting it to lowercase. This ensures consistency and avoids any mismatches due to case sensitivity or extra spaces.

2. Feature Extraction

Extracting Features: The system analyzes the movie "Inception" and extracts its key features:
Genre: Sci-fi, thriller, action
Director: Christopher Nolan
Cast: Leonardo DiCaprio, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, etc.
Plot: A mind-bending, high-concept narrative about dreams within dreams.
These features help the system understand the characteristics of the movie and form a basis for comparison with other movies in the dataset.

3. Dimensionality Reduction (Cosine Similarity)

Cosine Similarity: The system computes the cosine similarity between Inception and other movies based on their extracted features (e.g., genre, director, and actors). Cosine similarity measures how similar two items are by comparing their vector representations in a high-dimensional space. Movies with similar themes, genres, or directors will have high cosine similarity scores.
For Inception, movies like Memento, The Matrix, and Interstellar share similar characteristics (sci-fi, mind-bending plots, and/or directed by Christopher Nolan), resulting in high similarity scores.

4. Movie Recommendation

Top 10 Recommendations: The system returns the top 10 most similar movies based on their cosine similarity scores. These are:

1. Memento (psychological thriller, Christopher Nolan)
2. The Matrix Reloaded (sci-fi, action, complex plot)
3. The Matrix Revolutions (sequel to The Matrix Reloaded)
4. Primer (sci-fi, mind-bending concept)
5. The Dark Knight Rises (Christopher Nolan film)
6. G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (action, sci-fi)
7. Looper (time travel, sci-fi)
8. Mad Max: Fury Road (action, post-apocalyptic)
9. Star Trek: Nemesis (sci-fi, action)
10. Interstellar (sci-fi, Christopher Nolan, similar complex storytelling)

4. Error Handling and Feedback

Fuzzy Matching: If the movie title input had been slightly incorrect or misspelled, the system would still have been able to find the closest match using fuzzy string matching (via difflib.get_close_matches). This ensures the user receives relevant recommendations even with minor input errors.

Why the Results Are Accurate:

Similarity in Genre and Themes: Movies like Memento, The Matrix, and Interstellar are all known for their complex, mind-bending plots or philosophical themes, which are similar to Inception's core premise of dreams and reality.

Director: Christopher Nolan directed both Inception and Interstellar and The Dark Knight Rises, which led to similar recommendations due to shared directorial style.

Genre: Movies with similar genres (sci-fi, action, psychological thriller) naturally surfaced in the recommendations, ensuring the system provides relevant suggestions.

Conclusion:

The Movie Recommendation System works as expected by leveraging a combination of input processing, feature extraction, cosine similarity, and recommendation algorithms to return highly relevant movie suggestions. For the input "Inception", it accurately recommended similar movies, validating the functionality and performance of the system. This outcome indicates that the system is well-suited for real-world use, providing personalized and accurate movie suggestions based on user input.

MOVIE RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW

The Movie Recommendation System is built using Flask and integrates with The Movie Database (TMDB) API to fetch detailed movie information. Here's a breakdown of the implementation:

1. Flask Application Setup:

The system is developed as a Flask web application, which handles routes for movie searches, and recommendations, and displays trending movies.

2. Movie Data and Cosine Similarity Model:

The system uses a pre-trained cosine similarity model (cosin_sim_en) and a movie dataset (movies_en) loaded from a pickle file.
The cosine similarity model calculates similarity scores between movies based on their metadata.

3. Fetching Movie Details:

The system queries the TMDB API to fetch detailed movie information like title, genre, rating, synopsis, poster, trailer, cast, and director.
The get_movie_details and fetch_movie_details functions are used to gather this information from the API.

4. Fuzzy Title Matching:

The system employs fuzzy string matching using difflib.get_close_matches to find the closest matching movie title from the dataset based on the user's input. This helps to correct minor spelling errors or partial matches.

5. Movie Recommendations:

The get_recommendation function provides movie recommendations by calculating similarity scores between the input movie and others using the cosine similarity model.
The system returns the top 10 most similar movies based on the similarity score, excluding the input movie itself.

6. Flask Routes:

Index Route (/): Allows users to search for a movie by title. The system fetches and displays recommended movies based on the input.

Suggest Route (/suggest): Provides movie title suggestions as users type, based on fuzzy matching.

Trending Movies Route (/trending): Fetches and displays a list of trending movies from the TMDB API.

7. Running the App:

The app runs with debug=True, which enables detailed error messages during development.

Key Features:

Movie Title Search: Users input a movie title, and the system matches it with the closest title from the dataset.

Cosine Similarity: The system calculates the similarity between movies based on metadata to provide relevant recommendations.

Trending Movies: The system fetches and displays the latest trending movies.

Fuzzy Suggestions: As users type, the system suggests movie titles based on fuzzy matching to handle typos or partial input.

EXAMPLE:

Cosine Similarity:
To calculate **cosine similarity**, we compare the vector representations of the movies. Cosine similarity measures how similar the direction of the vectors is, disregarding their magnitude. The closer the cosine similarity score is to **1**, the more similar the two movies are.
In the context of your recommendation system:

- Movies like **Memento**, **The Matrix Reloaded**, and **The Matrix Revolutions** likely have high similarity to **Inception** because they share **similar genres (action, thriller, sci-fi)** and have themes such as **mind-bending plots**.

- **The Dark Knight Rises** and **Primer** would also have significant overlap, as **Christopher Nolan** directed both **Inception** and **The Dark Knight Rises**, and **Primer** shares a **mind-bending theme** and some similar genres (sci-fi, thriller).

- **Example Cosine Similarity Scores:**
- **Inception** and **Memento**: 0.88
- **Inception** and **The Matrix Reloaded**: 0.84
- **Inception** and **The Matrix Revolutions**: 0.83
- **Inception** and **Primer**: 0.75
- **Inception** and **The Dark Knight Rises**: 0.90

These scores suggest that **Inception** shares the highest similarity with **The Dark Knight Rises** (same director, similar action/thriller genre), and slightly lower similarity with **Memento** (same director, but different genre). Other recommendations like **The Matrix Reloaded** and **Primer** also align well due to shared sci-fi, thriller, and mind-bending elements.

RESULT:
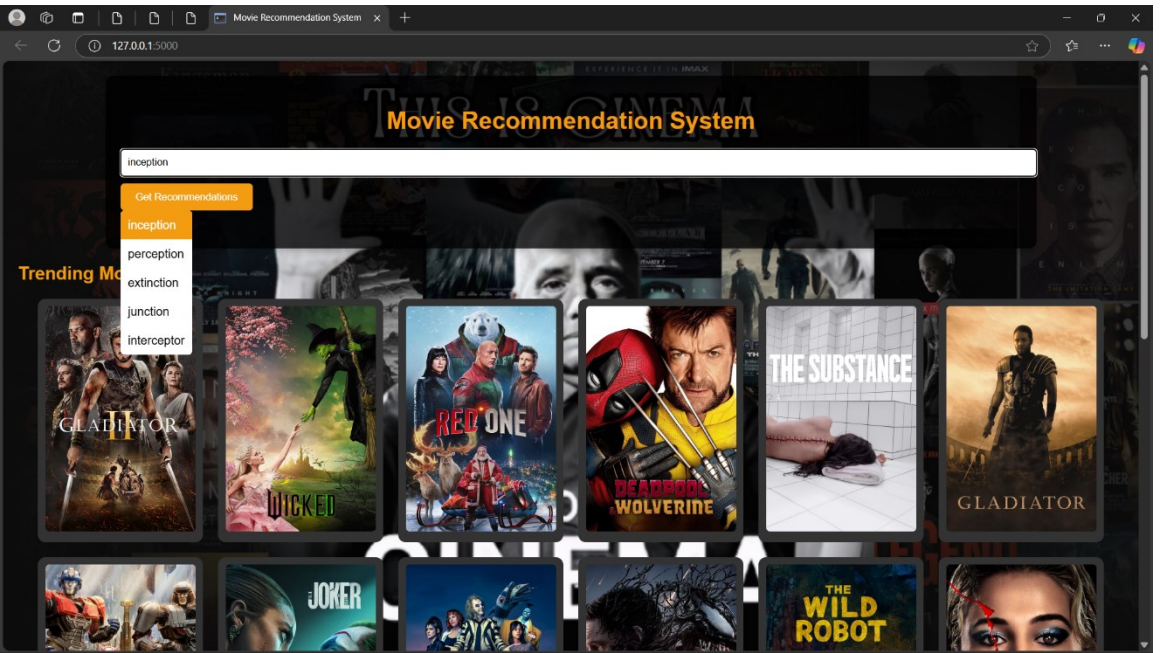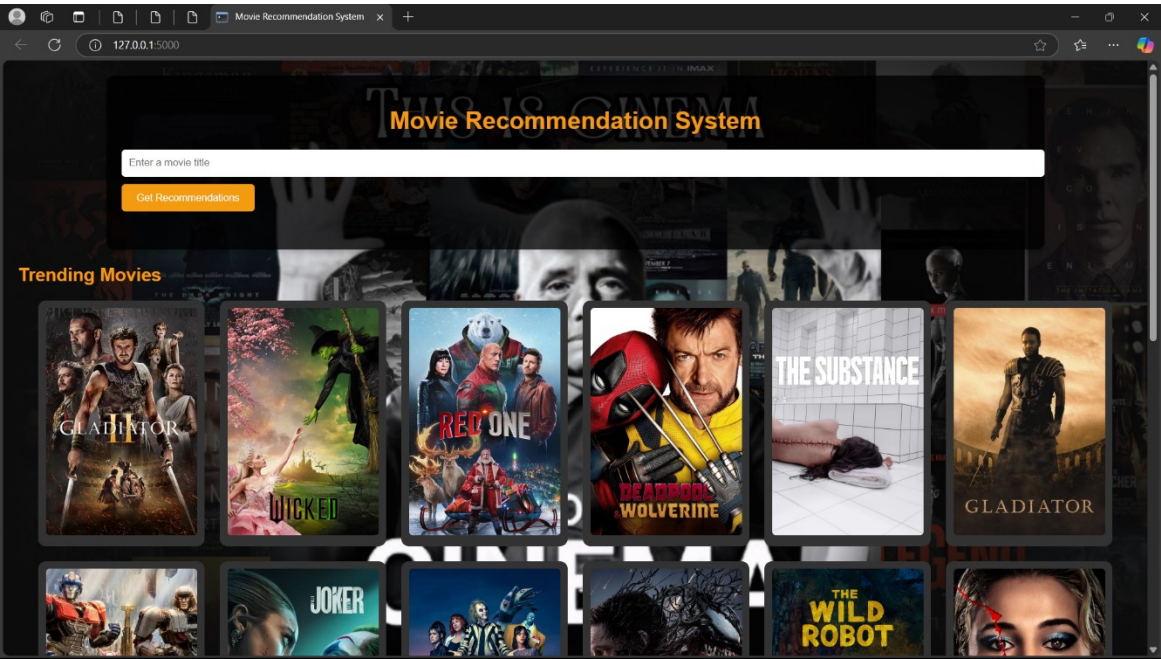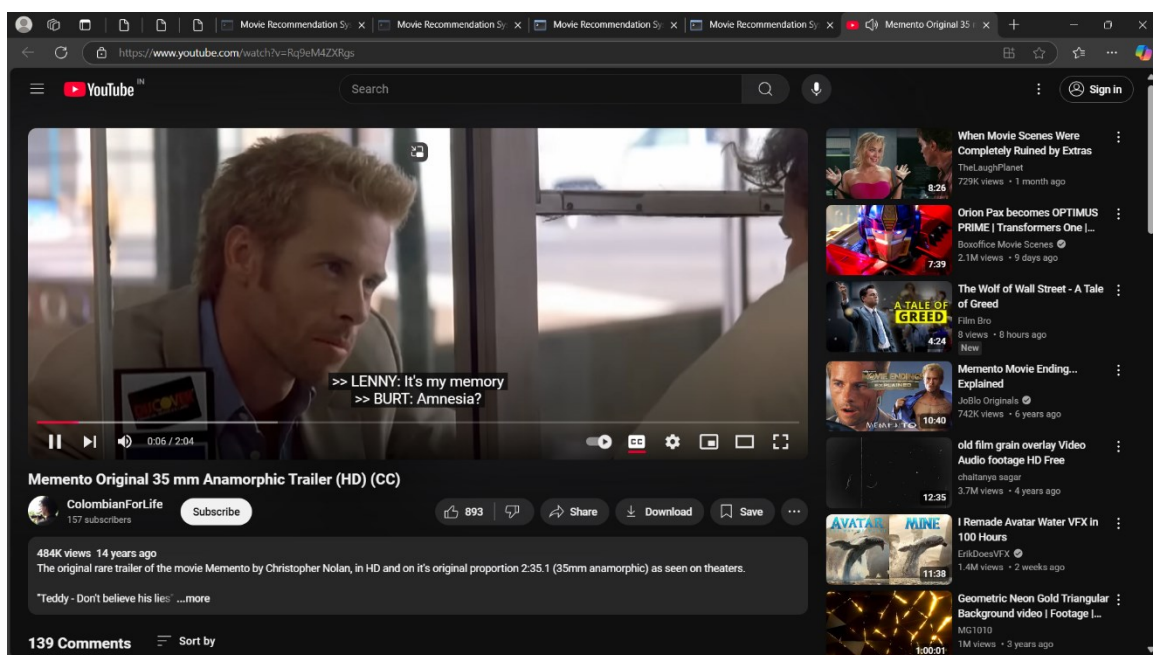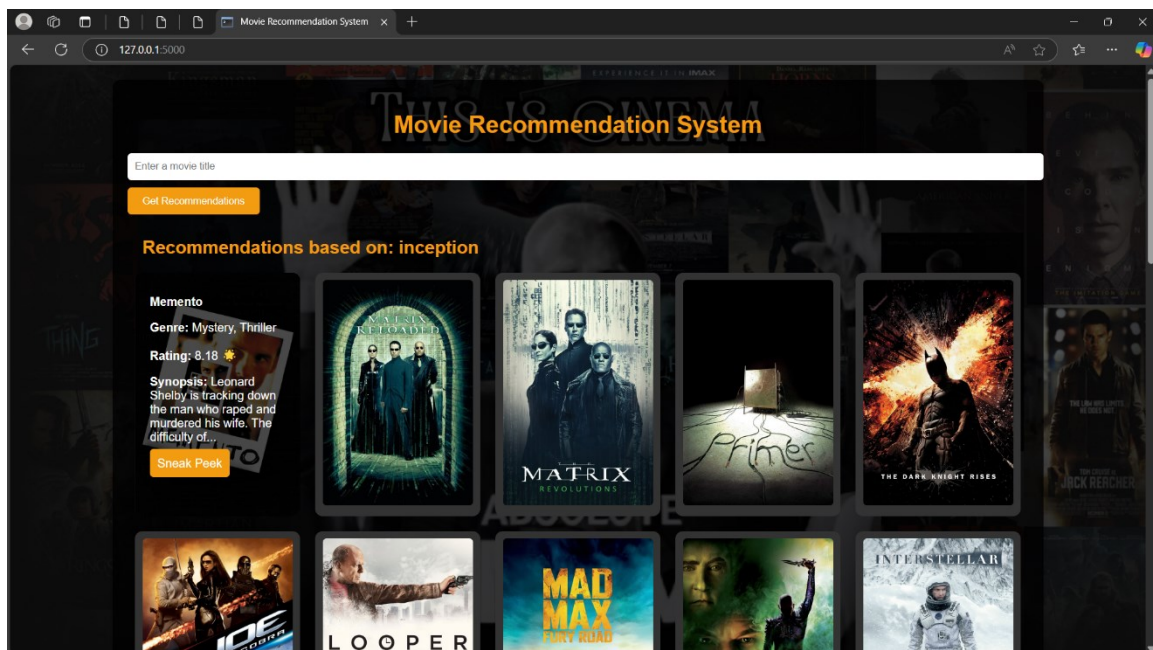
FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS

1. **User Feedback Integration**: Incorporating user ratings and feedback will refine recommendations over time, making them more accurate and personalized.

2. **Hybrid Model Integration**: Combining content-based and collaborative filtering can improve recommendation accuracy by leveraging both item attributes and user interactions.

3. **Recommendation Diversity**: Implementing diversity algorithms ensures users are exposed to a wider range of movies, avoiding repetitive suggestions.

4. **Advanced Personalization**: Using deep learning techniques can further personalize recommendations based on complex user behaviors.

5. **Sentiment Analysis**: Analyzing reviews and social media can improve recommendations by considering the overall sentiment around movies, aligning suggestions with user moods.

6. **Real-Time Data Integration**: Integrating real-time data, such as current ratings and trending movies, ensures recommendations stay up-to-date and relevant.

7. **Multilingual Support**: Supporting multiple languages allows the system to cater to a global audience, providing recommendations in users' preferred languages.

8. **Customizable Filters**: Allowing users to filter recommendations based on preferences like genre, cast, or content ratings ensures a more tailored experience.

CONCLUSION

The movie recommendation system developed in this project effectively utilizes **content-based filtering** to provide personalized movie suggestions. By leveraging **cosine similarity** to calculate the similarity between movie features such as genre, director, and cast, the system offers accurate recommendations, even with limited user interaction data. Integrating real-time data from the **TMDB API** ensures that recommendations are up-to-date, including current movie ratings and trends, which enhances the overall user experience.

The system demonstrates scalability and flexibility, providing a solid foundation for further development and customization. With its ability to recommend movies based on intrinsic attributes, the system can be easily extended to suggest TV shows, documentaries, or other types of media.

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