

INTRODUCTION TO DATA SCIENCE

This lecture is
based on course by E. Fox and C. Guestrin, Univ of Washington

Principal component analysis

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Dimensionality reduction

- Input data may have thousands or millions of dimensions!
 - e.g., text data
- **Dimensionality reduction:** represent data with fewer dimensions
 - easier learning – fewer parameters
 - visualization – hard to visualize more than 3D or 4D
 - discover “**intrinsic dimensionality**” of data
 - high dimensional data that is truly lower dimensional

Lowering dimensionality projection

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- Rather than picking a subset of the features, we can create new features that are combinations of existing features

$$\begin{aligned} \text{i-th obs} \rightarrow z_i[1] &= \underbrace{2.5 x_i[1] + 3 x_i[2] + 7 x_i[3] + \dots}_{\text{first (new) feat}} \\ z_i[2] &= \dots - - - \quad \text{(other weights on old features)} \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

- Let's see this in the unsupervised setting
 - just x , but no y

Lowering dimensionality projection

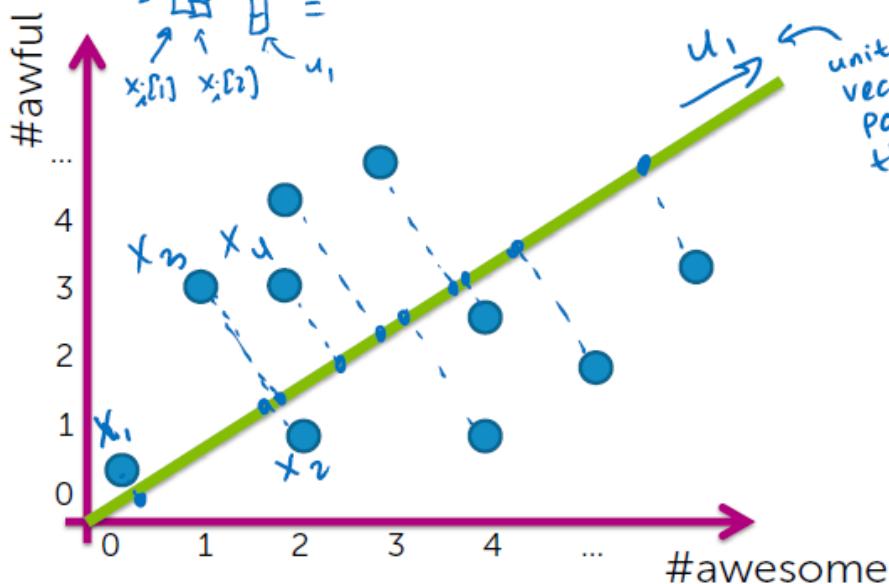
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Linear projection...

In eqn:

$$z_i = x_i \cdot u_1 = x_i^T u_1$$

$$= \begin{matrix} \square \\ x_i[1] \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \square \\ x_i[2] \end{matrix} \cdots \begin{matrix} \square \\ u_1 \end{matrix}$$



Project onto
1-dimension

$$\begin{matrix} \square \\ x^T \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \square \\ u \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} \square \\ \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \square \\ x \end{matrix}$$

elementwise
product
+sum

Lowering dimensionality projection

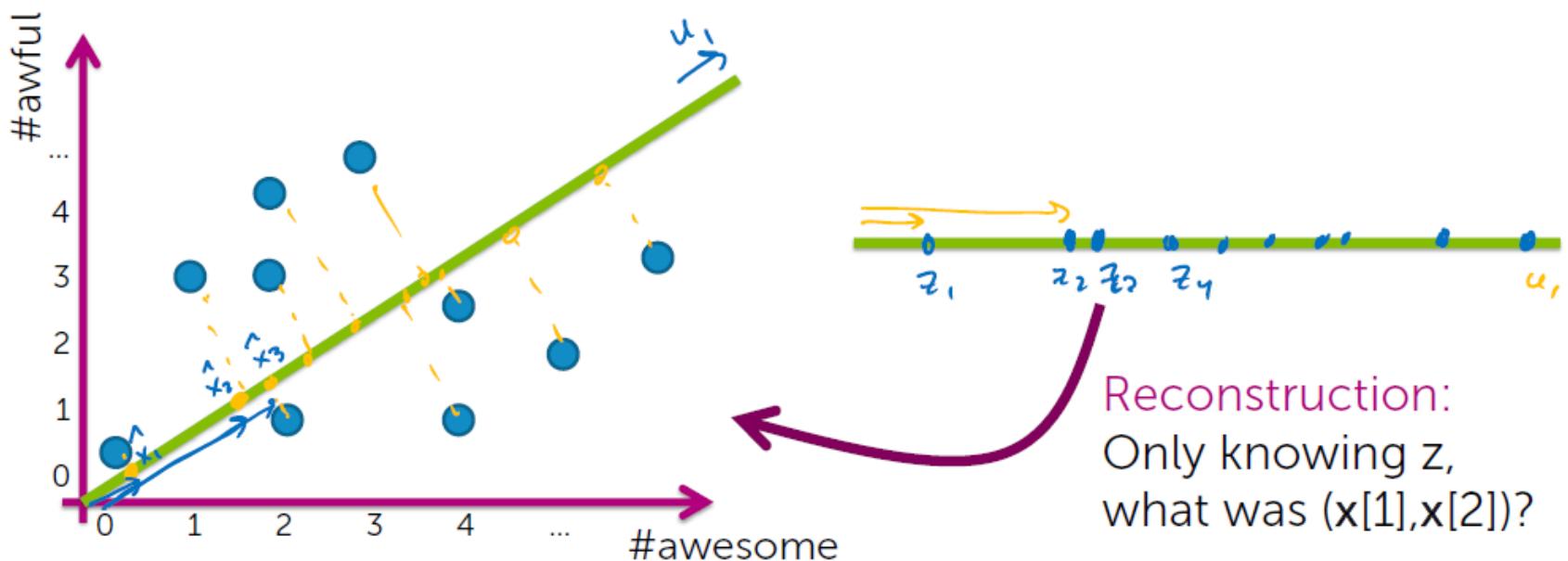
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Linear projection and reconstruction

In eqn:

$$\hat{x}_i = z_i u_i$$

put back into $x[1], x[2]$
and



Lowering dimensionality projection

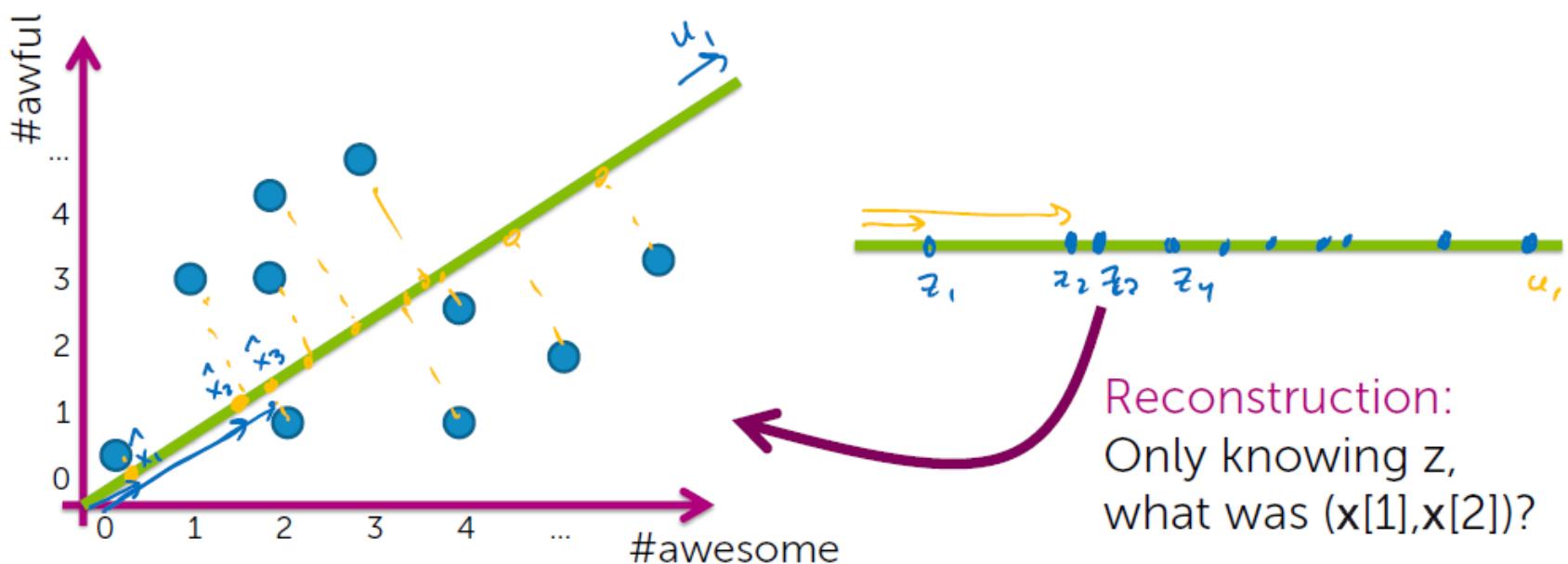
6

Linear projection and reconstruction

In eqn:

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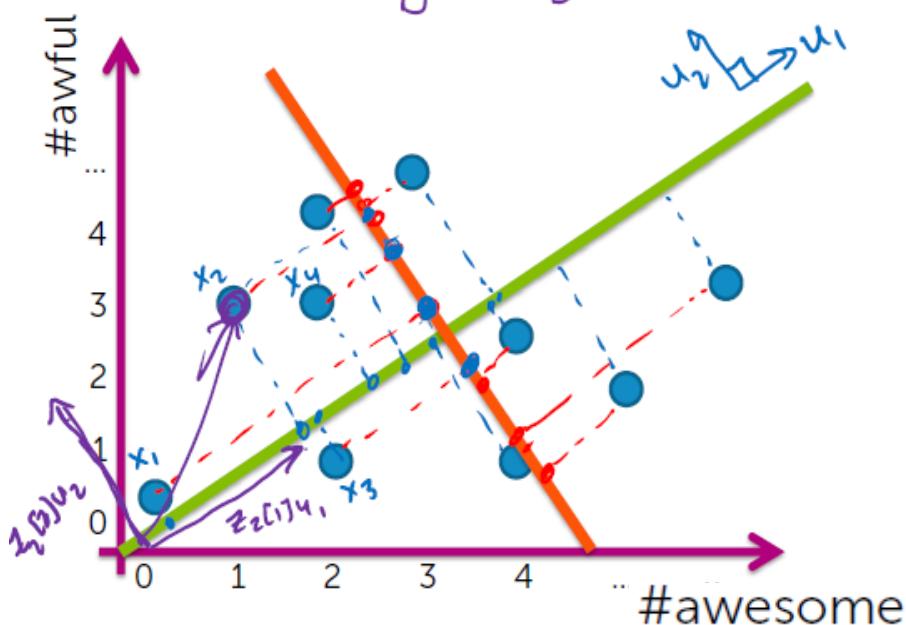
Lowering dimensionality projection

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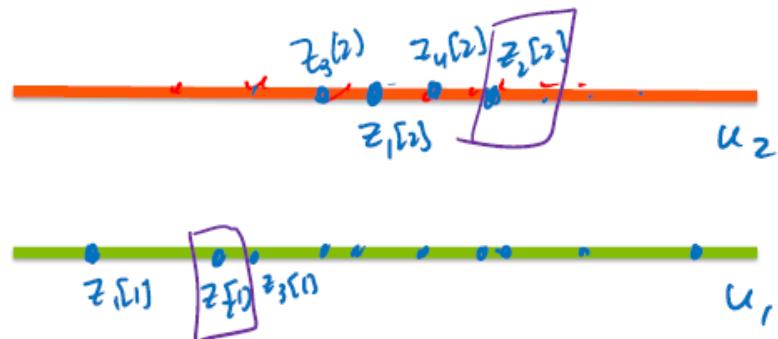
What if we project onto d orthogonal vectors?

In eqns:

$$\hat{x}_i[1:2] = z_i[1]u_1 + z_i[2]u_2 \\ = \# \square + \# \square = \square$$



$z_i[1] \leftarrow$ projection onto u_1 ,
 $z_i[2] \leftarrow$ projection onto u_2

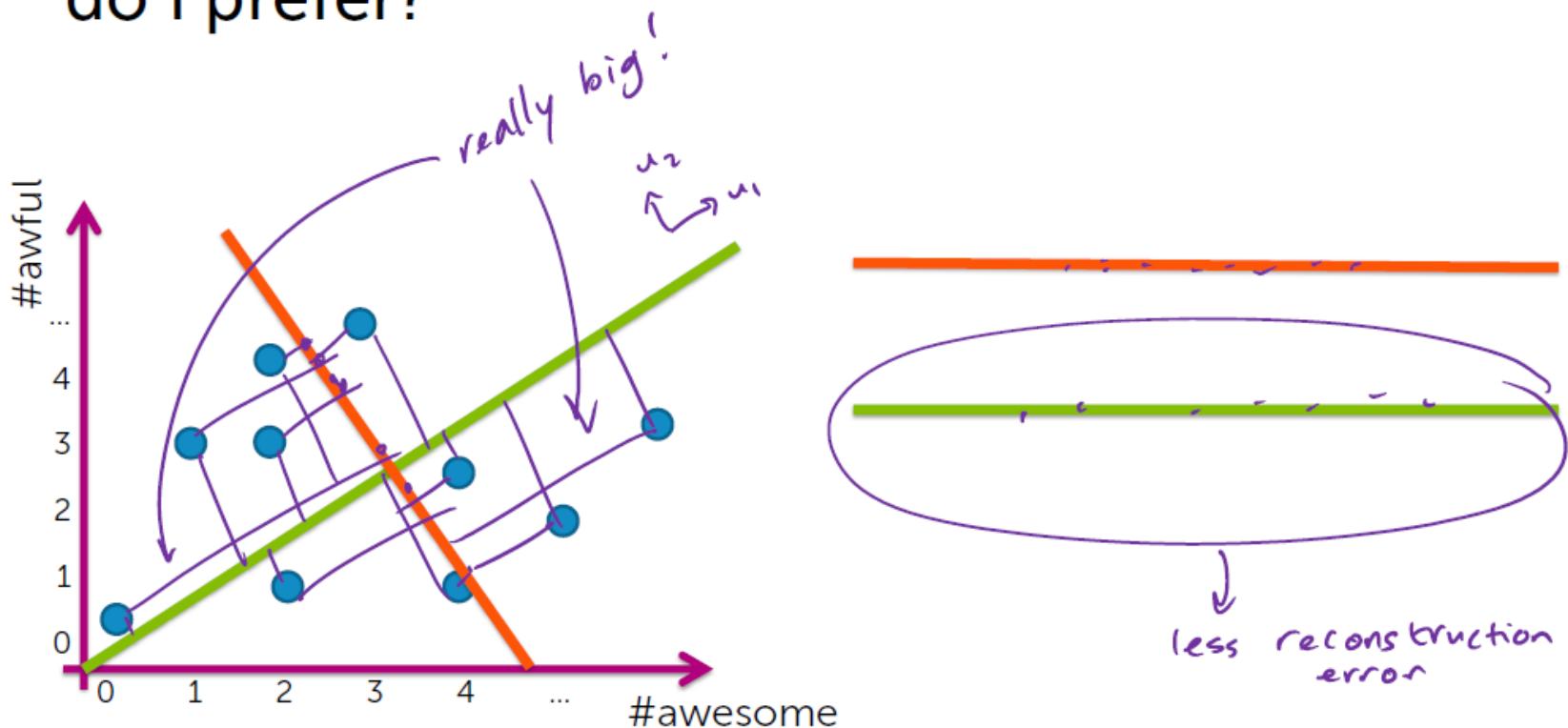


Perfect
reconstruction!

Lowering dimensionality projection

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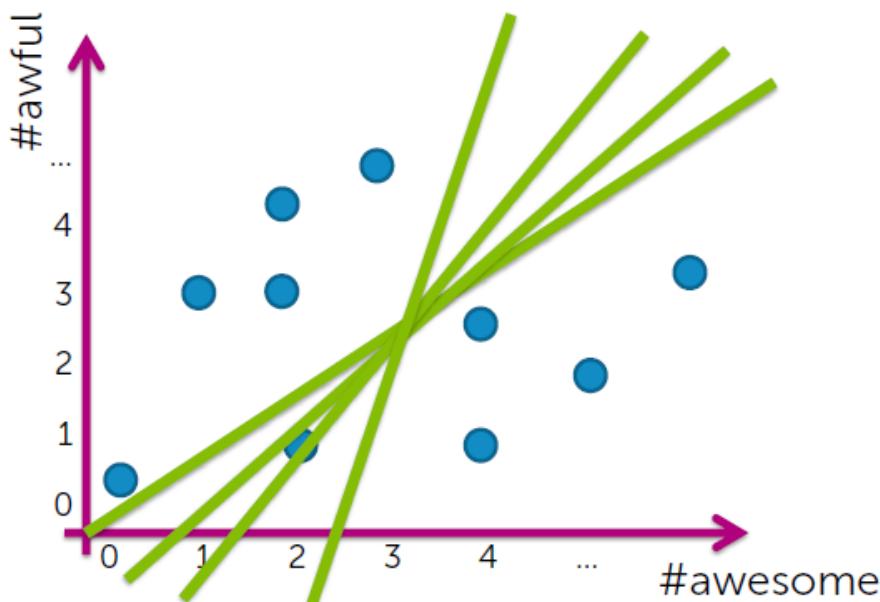
If I had to choose one of these vectors, which do I prefer?



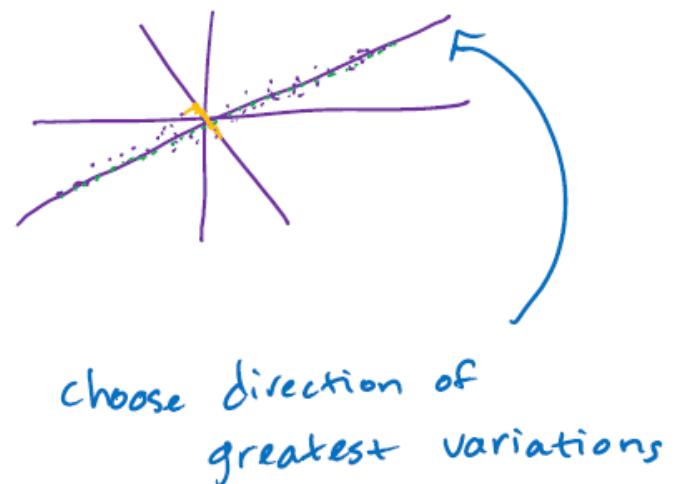
Lowering dimensionality projection

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What about over all single vectors?



Consider extreme data example:



Principal component analysis (PCA)

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Basic idea

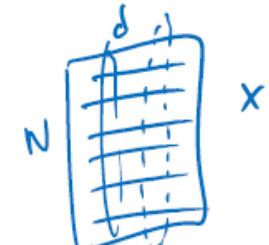
- Project d-dimensional data into k-dimensional space while preserving as much information as possible:
 - e.g., project space of 10000 words into 3-dimensions
 - e.g., project 3-d into 2-d
- Choose projection with minimum reconstruction error

Principal component analysis (PCA)

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Basic PCA algorithm

- Form **data matrix** X
 - Each row is a different data point...like our typical data tables



- Recenter: subtract the mean from each row of $X \rightarrow X_c$
- Spread/orientation calculation: Compute the covariance matrix Σ :

$$\Sigma_{ts} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_{c,i}[t]x_{c,i}[s]$$



- Find basis:
 - Compute **eigendecomposition** of Σ
 - Select $(u[0], \dots, u[k])$ to be **eigenvectors with largest eigenvalues**
- Project data: Project each data point onto each vector

$$x_i[1:d] \rightarrow z_i[1:k] \quad k \leq d$$

discard all others
 u_{k+1}, \dots, u_d

Principal component analysis (PCA)

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Reconstruction

Using our principal components, reconstruct observation in original domain:

$$\hat{x}_i[1:d] = \bar{x}[1:d] + \sum_{j=1}^k z_i[j] u_j$$

↑

amount *in this direction*

*recenter...
add back
subtracted
mean*

Principal component analysis (PCA)

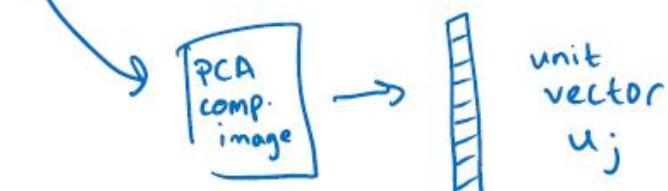
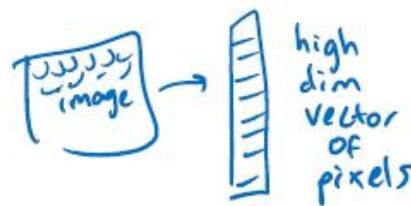
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Eigenfaces [Turk, Pentland '91]

Input images:



Principal components:

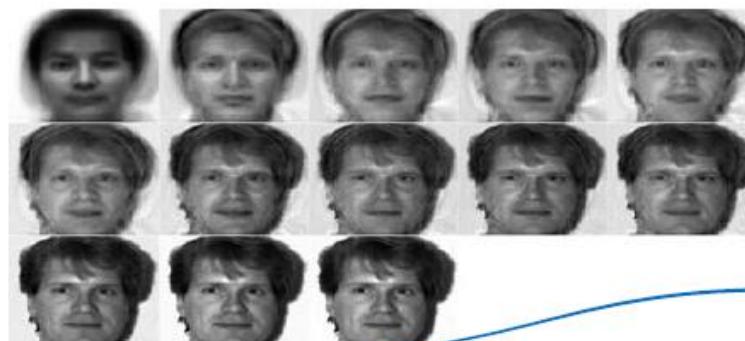


Principal component analysis (PCA)

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Eigenfaces reconstruction

Each image corresponds to adding 8 principal components:



$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{reconst.} \\ \text{image} \end{bmatrix}_i = \sum_{j=1}^k z_i(j) u_j + \bar{x}$$

proj. of x_i onto u_j

PCA comp. images

image dataset mean image

$\begin{bmatrix} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{bmatrix} = h$

The equation shows the reconstruction of an image x_i as a sum of its projections onto the principal components u_j , scaled by the corresponding coefficients $z_i(j)$, plus the mean image \bar{x} . A blue bracket under the first term indicates the projection of x_i onto the principal component u_j . A blue arrow labeled "PCA comp. images" points to the term u_j . A blue arrow labeled "image dataset mean image" points to the term \bar{x} . A blue bracket under the rightmost term indicates it is equal to h .

Principal component analysis (PCA)

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Scaling up

- Covariance matrix can be really big!
 - Σ is d by d
 - Say, only 10000 features
 - finding eigenvectors is very slow...
- Use singular value decomposition (SVD)
 - finds up to k eigenvectors
 - great implementations available

Recommender system: films

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Machine learning:
recommender system

□ Personalizacja



100 Hours a Minute
What do I care about?

Information overload



Browsing is “history”
– Need new ways
to discover content

Personalization: Connects *users & items*

viewers

videos

Recomender system: films

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Connect users with movies
they may want to watch

Recomender system: music

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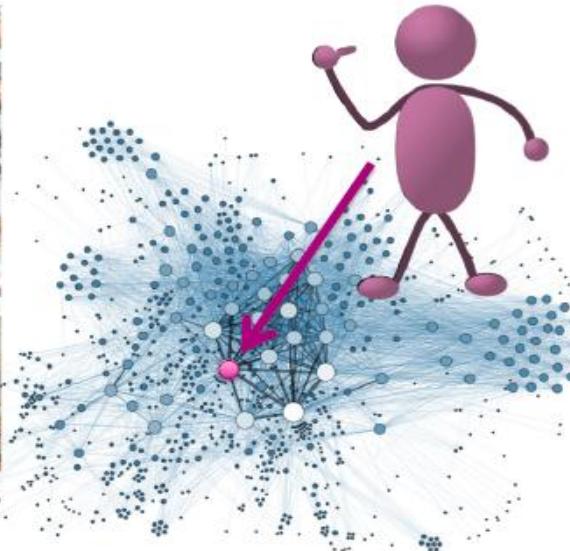


Recommendations form
coherent & diverse sequence

Recomender system: friends

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Friend recommendations



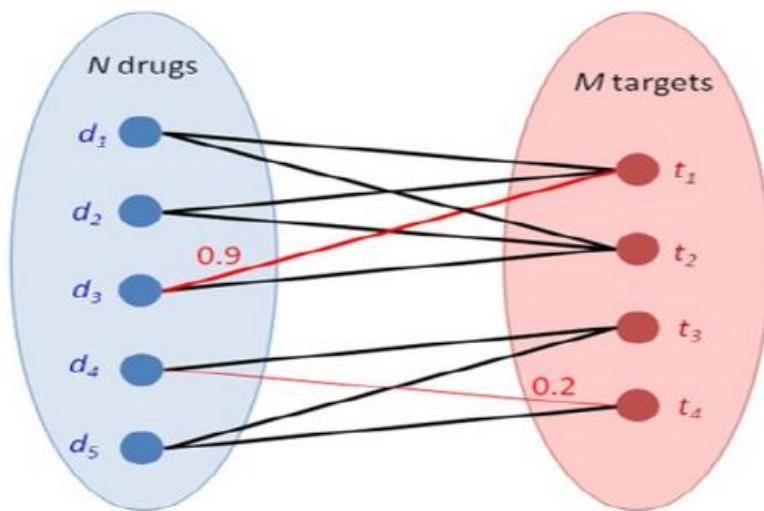
Users and “items”
are of the same “type”

Recomender system: medicine

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Drug-target interactions

Cobanoglu et al. '13



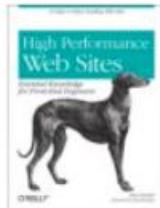
What drug should we
“repurpose” for some disease?

Recomender system:

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Recommended for You



**High Performance Web Sites:
Essential Knowledge for
Front-End Engineers**
by Steve Souders (Author)
Our Price: \$19.79
Used & new from \$16.24

Add to Cart

Add to Wish List

Because you purchased...

**Programming Collective Intelligence: Building
Smart Web 2.0 Applications** (Paperback)
by Toby Segaran (Author)

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Today's Recommendations For You

Here's a daily sample of items recommended for you. Click here to [see all recommendations](#)

 Even Faster Web Sites Performance Optimization for Front-End Engineers by Steve Souders 4.5 stars (7) \$23.10 Fix this recommendation	 simply Javascript (Paperback) by Kevin Yank 4.5 stars (19) \$28.37 Fix this recommendation	 The Art & Science of Java (Paperback) by Bruce W. Eckel 4.5 stars (15) \$34.99 Fix this recommendation
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Recommendations combine
global & session interests

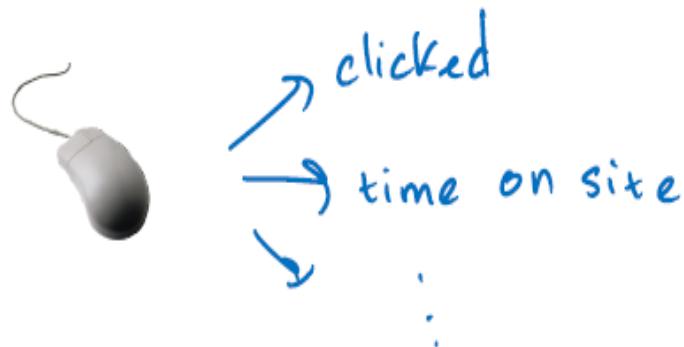
Challenges: Type of feedback

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- Explicit – user tells us what she likes



- Implicit – we try to infer what she likes from usage data



Challenges: what is the goal ?

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Top K versus diverse outputs

- Top K recommendations may be very redundant
 - *People who liked Rocky 1 also enjoyed Rocky 2, Rocky 3, Rocky 4, Rocky 5,...*
- Diverse recommendations
 - Users are multi-faceted & want to hedge our bets
 - Rocky 2, It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia, Gandhi

Challenges: Cold-start problem

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A new movie walks into a bar...



Cold-start problem: recommendations for new users or new movies

- Need side information about user/movie
 - A.K.A. features!

action, actors, sequel, ...

- Could also play 20-questions game...

Challenges: evolving with time

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That's so last year...

- Interests change over time...
 - Is it 1967?
 - Or 1977?
 - Or 1988?
 - Or 1998?
 - Or 2011?
- Models need flexibility to adapt to users
 - Macro scale
 - Micro scale *intention now*
- And keep checking that system still accurate



macy's.com

Challenges: Scalability

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For N users and M movies, some approaches take $O(N^3+M^3)$

- Not so good for billions of users...

Big focus has been on:

- Efficient implementations
- Fast exact & approximate methods as needed

Building a recommender system

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Solution 0: Popularity

Solution 1: Classification model

Solution 2: People who bought this
also bought...

Solution 3: Discovering hidden structure
by matrix factorization

Recommender system: popularity?

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Simplest approach: Popularity

What are people viewing now?

- Rank by global popularity

Limitation:

- No personalization

MOST POPULAR

E-MAILED BLOGGED SEARCHED

1. Really?: The Claim: Lack of Sleep Increases the Risk of Catching a Cold.
2. Magazine Preview: Coming Out in Middle School
3. Yes, We Speak Cupcake
4. Gossamer Silk, From Spiders Spun
5. Tie to Pets Has Germ Jumping to and Fro
6. Maureen Dowd: Where the Wild Thing Is
7. Maureen Dowd: Blue Is the New Black
8. The Holy Grail of the Unconscious
9. For Opening Night at the Metropolitan, a New Sound: Boooing
10. Economic Scene: Medical Malpractice System Breeds More Waste

[Go to Complete List »](#)

CUSTOMIZE HEADLINES

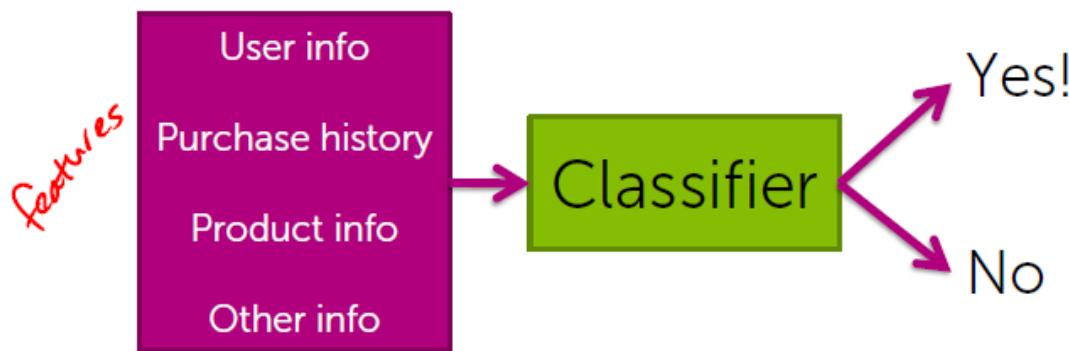
Create a personalized list of headlines based on your interests. [Get Started »](#)



Recommender system: classification

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What's the probability I'll buy this product?



Pros:

- ★ - Personalized:
Considers user info & purchase history
- ★ - Features can capture context:
Time of the day, what I just saw,...
- Even handles limited user history:
Age of user, ...

Cons:

- - Features may not be available
- Often doesn't perform as well as collaborative filtering methods (next)

Recommender system: co-occurrence

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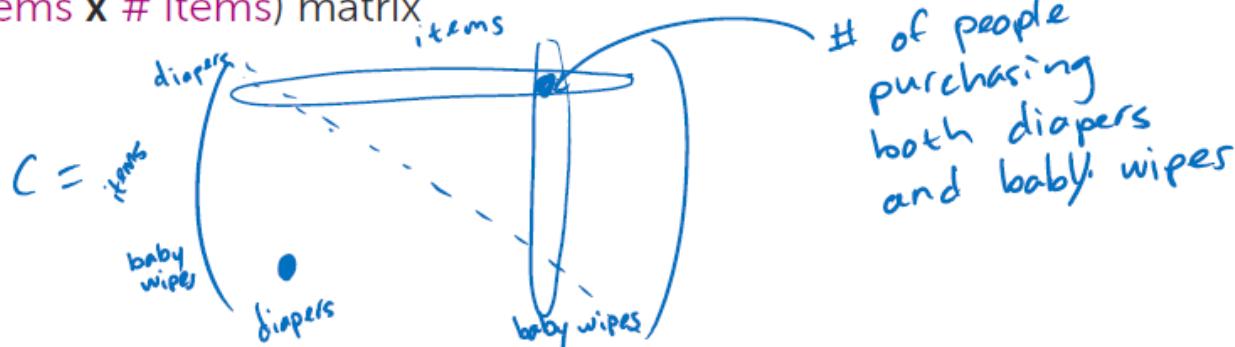
Co-occurrence matrix

- People who bought *diapers* also bought *baby wipes*

- **Matrix C:**

store # users who bought both items $i \& j$

- (# items x # items) matrix



- Symmetric: # purchasing $i \& j$ same as # for $j \& i$ ($C_{ij} = C_{ji}$)

Recommender system: co-occurrence

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Making recommendations using co-occurrences

User  purchased *diapers*

1. Look at *diapers* row of matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \dots & 4 & \dots & 100 & \dots \end{bmatrix}$$

DVD pacifiers baby wipes

2. Recommend other items with largest counts
 - *baby wipes, milk, baby food, ...*

Recommender system: correlations

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Co-occurrence matrix must be normalized

What if there are very popular items?

- Popular baby item:
Pampers Swaddlers diapers
 - For any baby item (e.g., $i = \text{Sophie giraffe}$
large count C_{ij} for $j = \text{Pampers Swaddlers}$)

Result:

CO ... 1 million
DVD diaper ... babywipes ...

- Drowns out other effects
 - Recommend based on popularity

Recommender system: co-occurrence

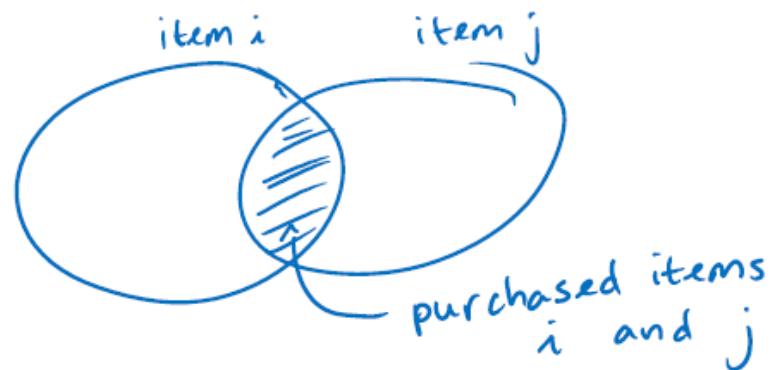
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Normalize co-occurrences: Similarity matrix

Jaccard similarity: normalizes by popularity

- Who purchased *i and j* divided by who purchased *i or j*

$$\frac{\# \text{ purchased } i \text{ and } j}{\# \text{ purchased } i \text{ or } j}$$



Many other similarity metrics possible. e.g., cosine similarity

Recommender system: co-occurrence

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Limitations

- Only current page matters, no history
 - Recommend similar items to the one you bought
- What if you purchased many items?
 - Want recommendations based on purchase history

Recommender system: co-occurrence

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(Weighted) Average of purchased items

User  bought items $\{diapers, milk\}$

- Compute user-specific score for each item j in inventory by combining similarities:

 \downarrow *should we recommend this?*

$$\text{Score}(\text{User}, \text{baby wipes}) = \frac{1}{2} (S_{\text{baby wipes}, \text{diapers}} + S_{\text{baby wipes}, \text{milk}})$$

- Could also weight recent purchases more

Sort $\text{Score}(\text{User}, j)$ and find item j with highest similarity

Recommender system: co-occurrence

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Limitations

- Does **not** utilize:
 - context (e.g., time of day)
 - user features (e.g., age)
 - product features (e.g., baby vs. electronics)
- Scalability – similarity matrix M^2 size
- Cold start problem
 - What if a new user or product arrives?

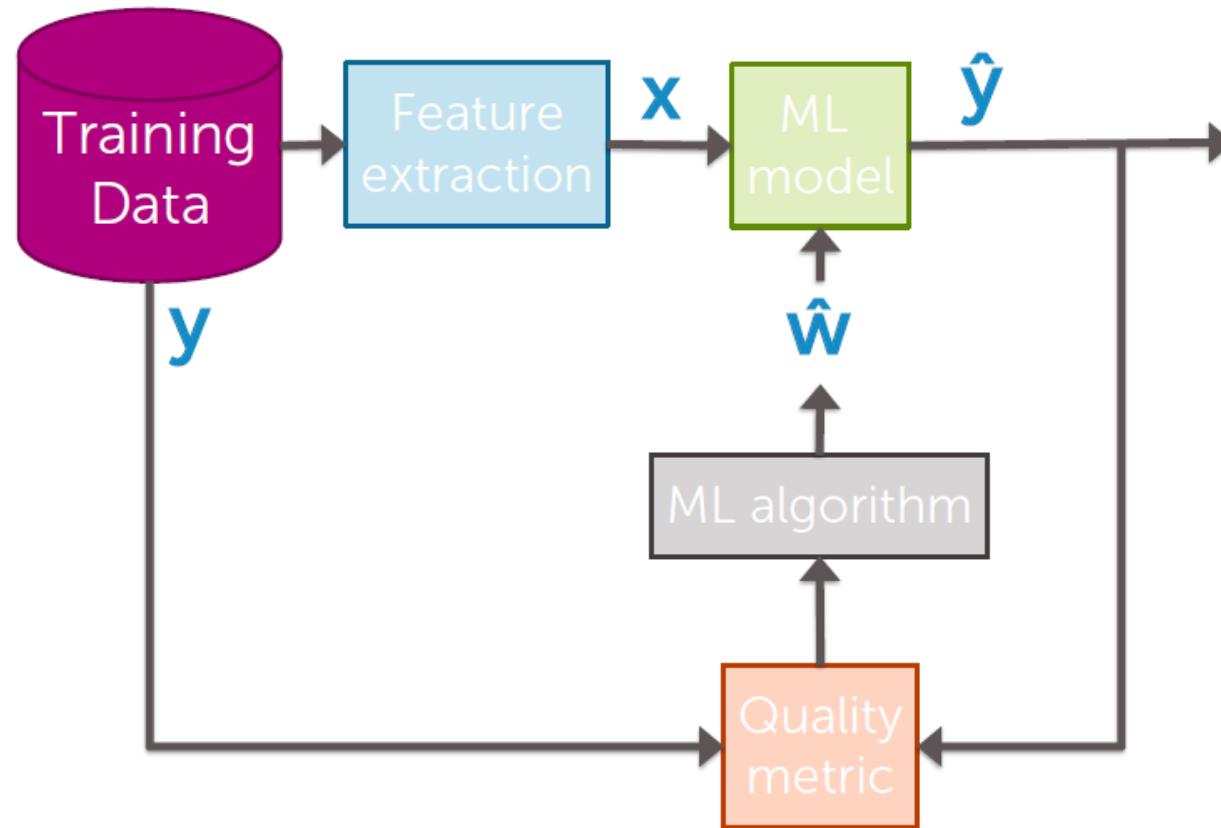
Recommender system: matrix factorization

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Discovering hidden structure
by matrix factorization

Flow chart

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Training Data

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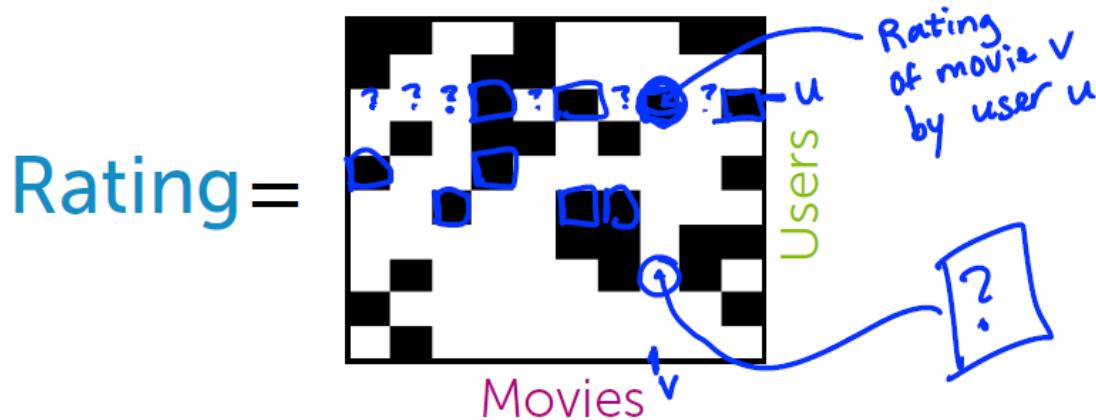
- Users watch movies and rate them

User	Movie	Rating
1	1	5★
1	2	5★
1	3	5★
1	4	5★
1	5	5★
2	1	5★
2	2	5★
2	3	5★
2	4	5★
2	5	5★
3	1	5★
3	2	5★
3	3	5★
3	4	5★
3	5	5★
4	1	5★
4	2	5★
4	3	5★
4	4	5★
4	5	5★
5	1	5★
5	2	5★
5	3	5★
5	4	5★
5	5	5★
6	1	5★
6	2	5★
6	3	5★
6	4	5★
6	5	5★
7	1	5★
7	2	5★
7	3	5★
7	4	5★
7	5	5★
8	1	5★
8	2	5★
8	3	5★
8	4	5★
8	5	5★

Each user only watches a few of the available movies

Training Data: matrix completion

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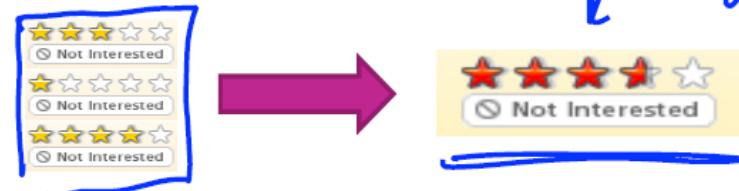


- **Data:** Users score some movies

Rating(u, v) known for black cells

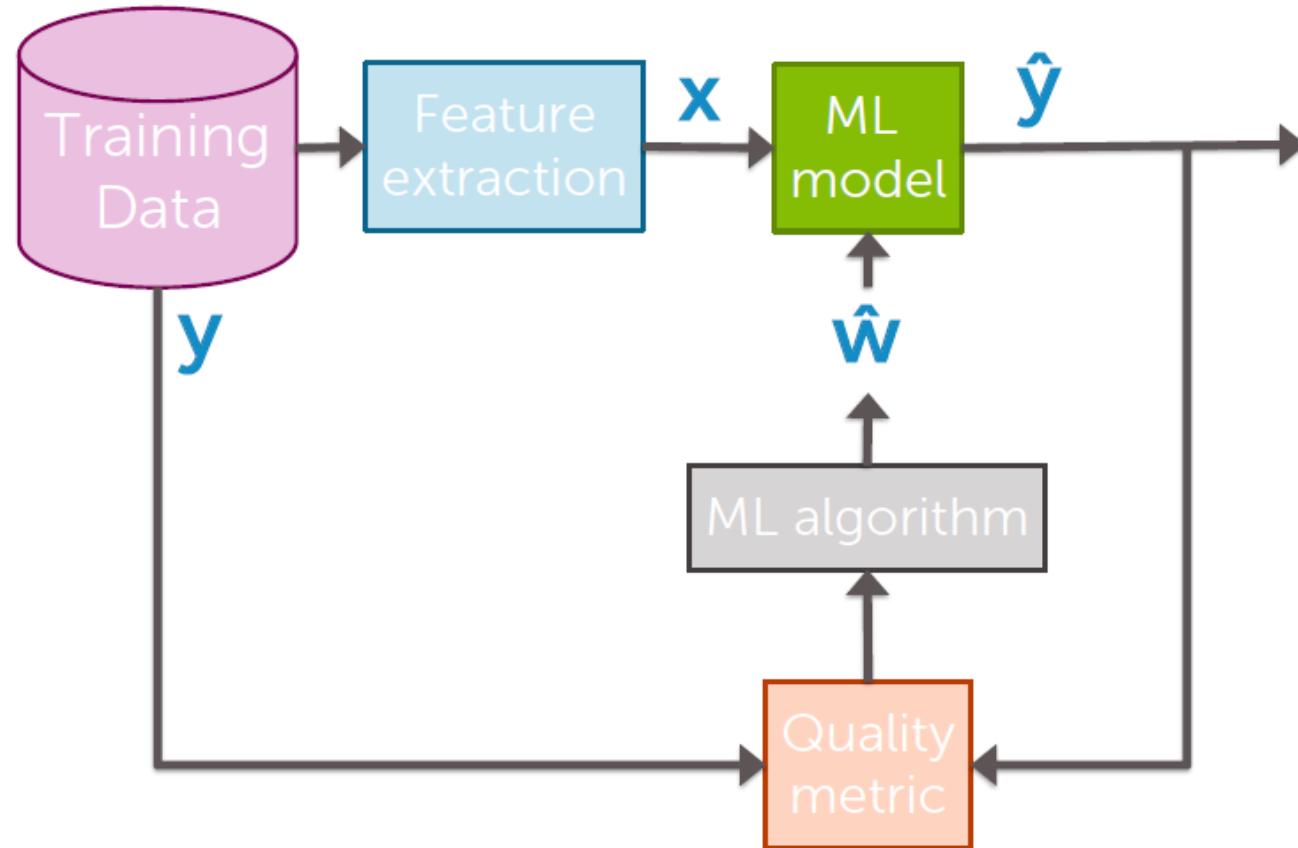
Rating(u, v) unknown for white cells

- **Goal:** Filling missing data?



Flow chart

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ML model

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Suppose we had d topics for each user & movie

- Describe movie v  with topics R_v
 - How much is it action, romance, drama,...

$$R_v = [0.3 \quad 0.01 \quad 1.5 \quad \dots]$$

- Describe user u  with topics L_u
 - How much she likes action, romance, drama,...

$$L_u = [2.5 \quad 0 \quad 0.8 \quad \dots]$$

not 0,...,5
↓ star

- $\widehat{\text{Rating}}(u, v)$ is the product of the two vectors

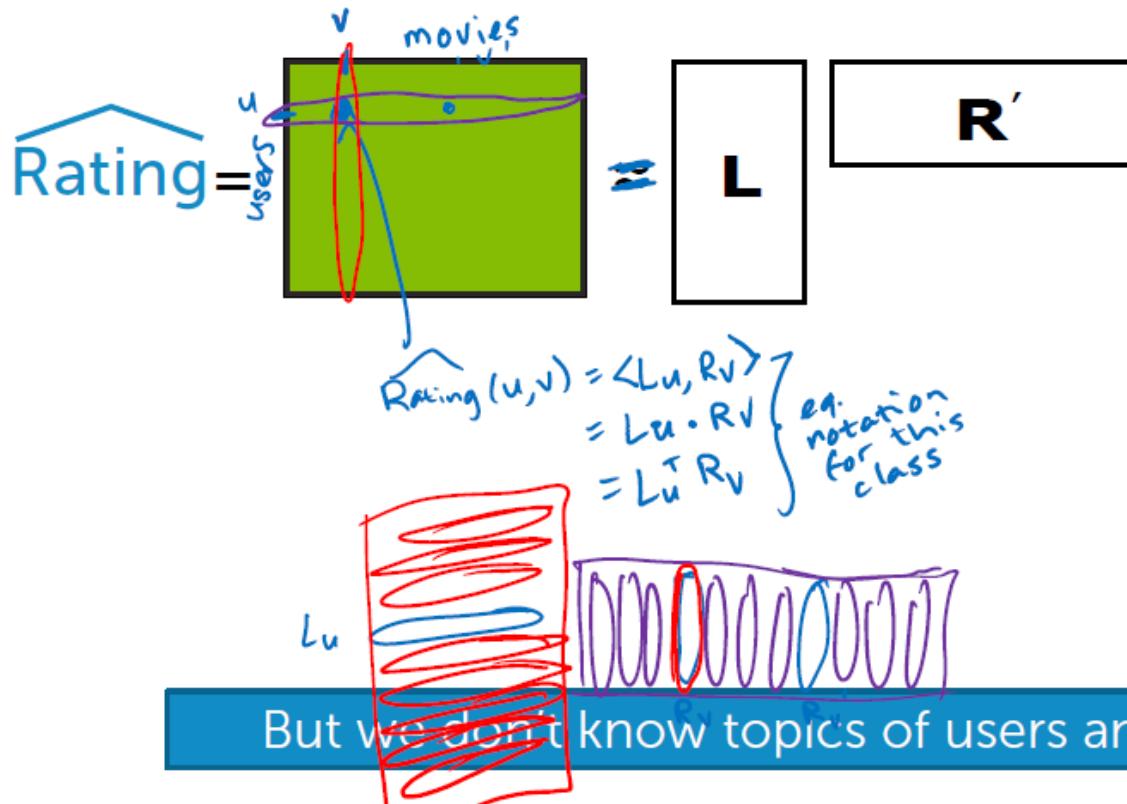
$$\begin{aligned} R_v &= [0.3 \quad 0.01 \quad 1.5 \quad \dots] \rightarrow 0.3 * 2.5 + 0 + 1.5 * 0.8 + \dots = 7.2 \\ L_u &= [2.5 \quad 0 \quad 0.8 \quad \dots] \\ L_u' &= [0 \quad 3.5 \quad 0.01 \quad \dots] \rightarrow 0 + 0.01 * 3.5 + 1.5 * 0.01 + \dots = 0.8 \end{aligned}$$

- **Recommendations:** sort movies user hasn't watched by $\widehat{\text{Rating}}(u, v)$

ML model

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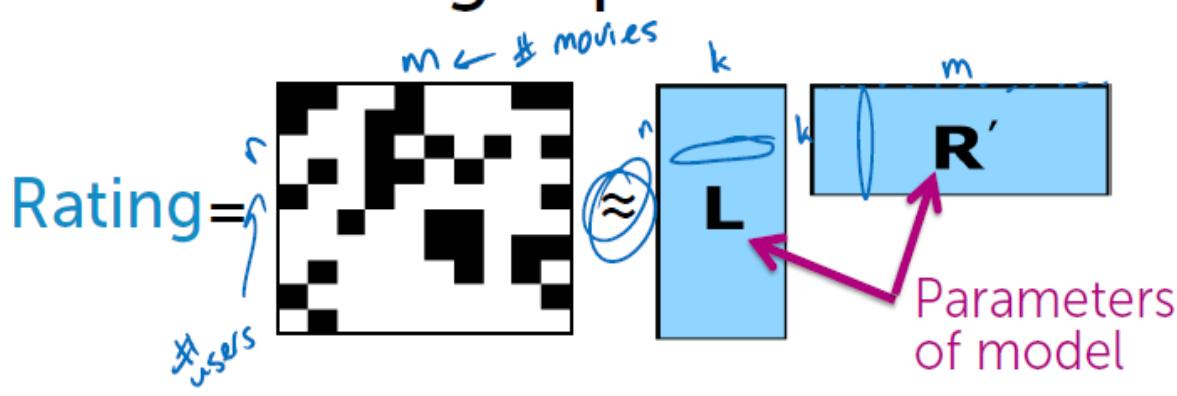
Predictions in matrix form



Matrix factorisation model

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Matrix factorization model: Discovering topics from data



params for
model w/ k topics:

$nk + km \ll nm$

learn this
using only
black squares

↑
full
matrix

- Only use observed values to estimate "topic" vectors \hat{L}_u and \hat{R}_v
- Use estimated \hat{L}_u and \hat{R}_v for recommendations

Many efficient algorithms for factorization

Matrix factorisation model

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Is the problem well posed?

Can we uniquely identify the latent factors?

$$\text{Rating}(u, v) \approx L \cdot R'$$

assumption:
 $r_{uv} = l_u \cdot r_v$

If r_{uv} is described by L_u, R_v what happens if we redefine the "topics" as

$$\tilde{L}_u = c L_u \quad \tilde{R}_v = \frac{1}{c} R_v$$

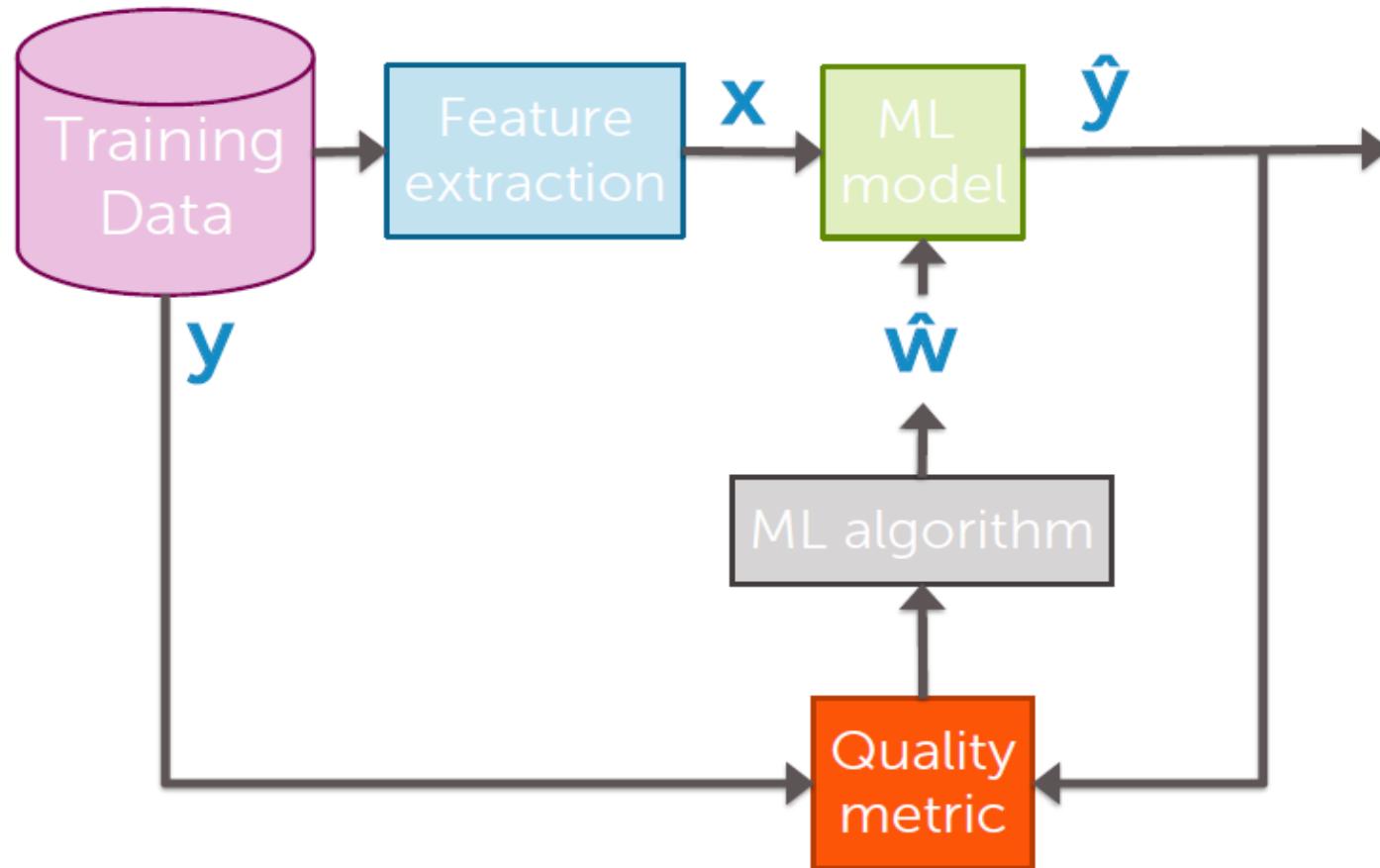
Then,

$$\tilde{L}_u \cdot \tilde{R}_v = c L_u \cdot \frac{1}{c} R_v = c \frac{1}{c} (L_u \cdot R_v) = L_u \cdot R_v \approx r_{uv}$$

(other trans. have same effect... orthonormal trans)
Other (orthonormal) transformations can have the same effect.
can't uniquely identify $L_u, R_v \Rightarrow$ don't interpret individually, only product

Flow chart

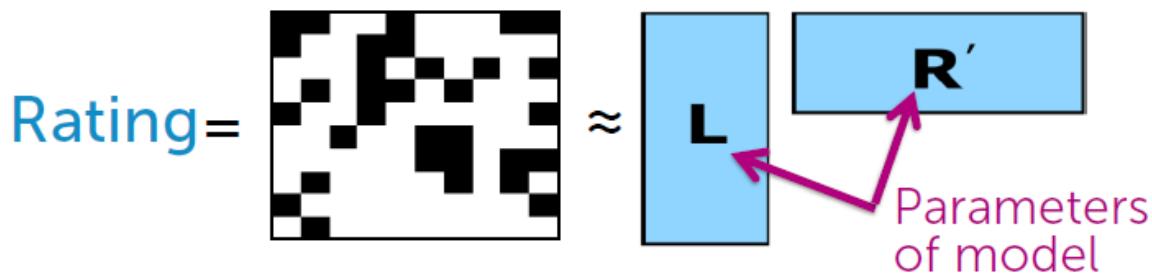
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Matrix factorisation model

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Matrix factorization objective



- Minimize mean squared error:
 - (Other loss functions are possible)

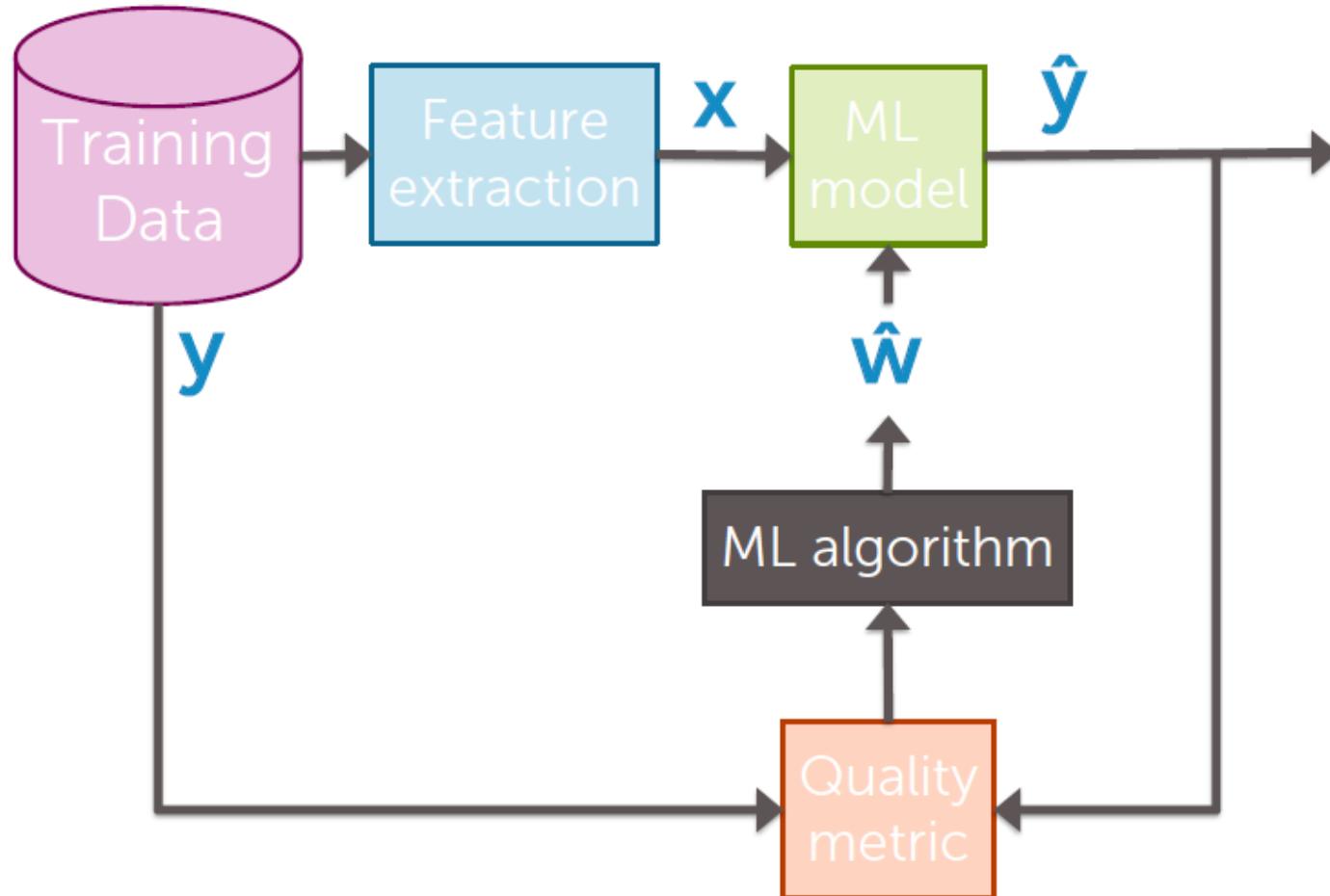
$$\min_{L, R} \sum_{u, v : r_{uv} \neq ?} (L_u \cdot R_v - r_{uv})^2$$

only over obs. values

- Non-convex objective
subject to convergence to local mode

Flow chart

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ML algorithm

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Coordinate descent

Goal: Minimize some function g

$$\min_w g(w)$$

$$g(w) = g(w_0, w_1, \dots, w_D)$$

Often, hard to find minimum for all coordinates, but **easy** for each coordinate

Coordinate descent:

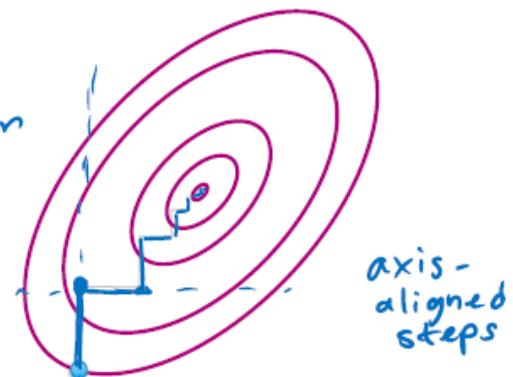
Initialize $\hat{w} = 0$ (or smartly...)

while not converged

pick a coordinate j

$$\hat{w}_j \leftarrow \min_w g(\hat{w}_0, \dots, \hat{w}_{j-1}, w, \hat{w}_{j+1}, \dots, \hat{w}_D)$$

fixed from prev. iteration
just min over i^{th} coord.



ML algorithm

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Coordinate descent for matrix factorization

$$\min_{L, R} \sum_{(u, v) : r_{uv} \neq ?} (L_u \cdot R_v - r_{uv})^2$$

- Fix movie factors $\underline{R_v}$, optimize for user factors L_u
- First key insight:

$$\min_{L_1, \dots, L_n} \sum_{(u, v) : r_{uv} \neq ?} (L_u \cdot R_v - r_{uv})^2$$

$V_u \triangleq$ set of movies
user u has rated

$$= \min_{L_1, \dots, L_n} \sum_u \underbrace{\sum_{v \in V_u} (L_u \cdot R_v - r_{uv})^2}_{\text{ind. opt. problem for each user}}$$

$$= \sum_u \min_{L_u} \sum_{v \in V_u} (L_u \cdot R_v - r_{uv})^2$$

ML algorithm

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Comments on coordinate descent

How do we pick next coordinate?

- At random ("random" or "stochastic" coordinate descent), round robin, ...

No stepsize to choose!

Super useful approach for *many* problems

- Converges to optimum in some cases (e.g., "strongly convex")

ML algorithm

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Coordinate descent for matrix factorization

$$\min_{L, R} \sum_{(u, v) : r_{uv} \neq ?} (L_u \cdot R_v - r_{uv})^2$$

- Fix movie factors $\underline{R_v}$, optimize for user factors L_u
- First key insight:

$$\min_{L_1, \dots, L_n} \sum_{(u, v) : r_{uv} \neq ?} (L_u \cdot R_v - r_{uv})^2$$

$V_u \triangleq$ set of movies
user u has rated

$$= \min_{L_1, \dots, L_n} \sum_u \underbrace{\sum_{v \in V_u} (L_u \cdot R_v - r_{uv})^2}_{\text{ind. opt. problem}}$$

for each user

$$= \sum_u \min_{L_u} \sum_{v \in V_u} (L_u \cdot R_v - r_{uv})^2$$

ML algorithm

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Minimize objective separately for each user

- For each user u : $\min_{L_u} \sum_{v \in V_u} (L_u \cdot R_v - r_{uv})^2$
param vector fixed obs.
- Second key insight: Looks like linear regression!

$$\min_w \sum_{i=1}^N (\underbrace{w \cdot h(x_i)}_{w^T h} - y_i)^2$$

Opt. w/ grad. desc.

ML algorithm

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Overall coordinate descent algorithm

$$\min_{L, R} \sum_{(u, v) : r_{uv} \neq ?} (L_u \cdot R_v - r_{uv})^2$$

- Fix movie factors, optimize for user factors
 - Independent least-squares over users

$$\min_{L_u} \sum_{v \in V_u} (L_u \cdot R_v - r_{uv})^2 + \lambda_u \|L\|$$

- Fix user factors, optimize for movie factors
 - Independent least-squares over movies

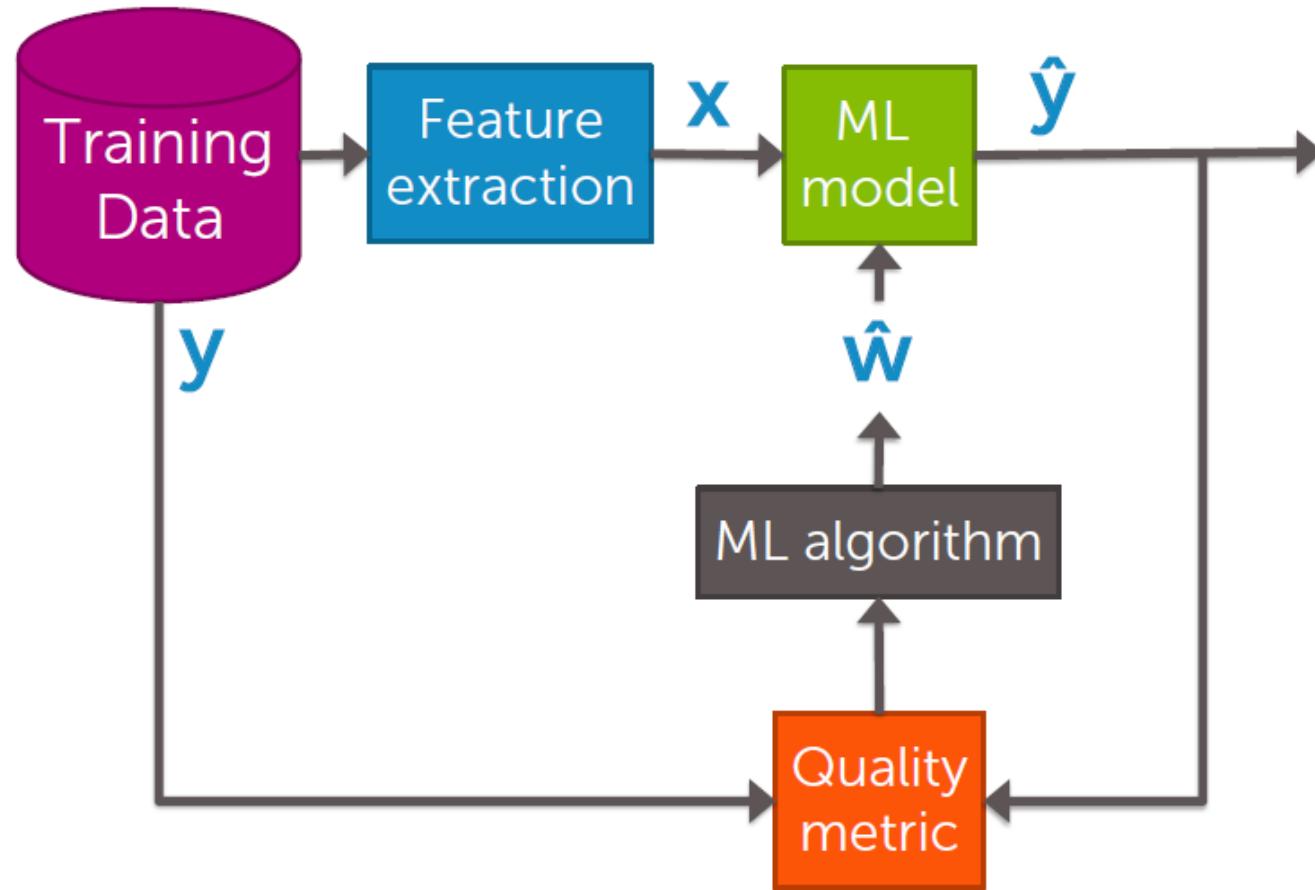
$$\min_{R_v} \sum_{u \in U_v} (L_u \cdot R_v - r_{uv})^2 + \lambda \|R\|$$

- System may be underdetermined: use regularization
- Converges to local optima
- Choices of regularizers and impact on algorithm:

$$L_2: \sum_u \|L_u\|_2^2 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \|L\|_F^2 \rightarrow \text{ridge}$$
$$L_1: \sum_u \|L_u\|_1 \rightarrow \text{lasso}$$

Flow chart

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Recommendation

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Using the results of matrix factorization

- Discover "topics" \hat{R}_v for each movie v $\rightarrow \hat{R}_v$

- Discover "topics" \hat{L}_u for each user u $\rightarrow \hat{L}_u$

- $\text{Score}(u,v)$ is the product of the two vectors \rightarrow
Predict how much a user will like a movie

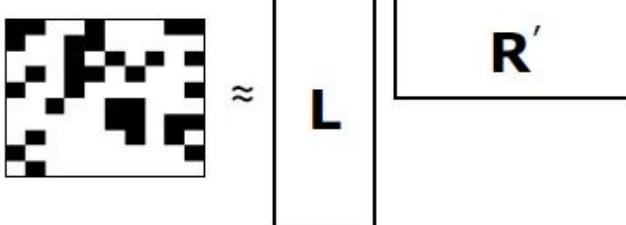
$$\hat{L}_u \cdot \hat{R}_v$$

- Recommendations: sort movies user hasn't watched by $\text{Score}(u,v)$

recommend movies v w/ highest score (u,v)

Example topics discovered from Wikipedia

Application to text data:



party law
government
election court
president elected
council general minister
political national members
committees unaffiliated office federal
member house parliament vote
public elections democratic held
son died
married family
king daughter john
death william father
born wife royal ireland
irish henry house lord
charles sir prince brother
children england queen duke
thomas years marriage george
earl edward english second
elizabeth years many brothers
christopher charles edward the great
elisabeth son king charles

school students
university high college schools
education year programs studies
curriculum secondary program learning
higher education university matriculation years
postsecondary postsecondary school
institutional educational institute class
institute educational institution college classes
affiliate affiliated curriculum student
engineering learning founded faculty gpa
sports students linked institutional school
teaching academic secondary educational

album band
song released
music songs single records
recorded rock bands release
live tour video record albums
label group recording guitar track
concerts, studio tracks, featured tracks
chart UK US top performed studio played
single album song setlist artist of studio
single artist member included early
selected tracks

radio station
news television
channel broadcast
stations network media
broadcasting time format location
program BBC programming
in morning local language English for all
adults different music genres and
easy channels digital and analog
radio stations and television stations
as programs daily news entertainment
and information

war army military
 forces battle force british
command general navy ship
division ships troops corps
service naval regiment
commader infantry attack men
officer lead soldiers are the officers
 commanding chief general brigadier or lie
 utenant colonel major captain
 captain masterlieutenant three army United
 soldiers were royal general major regular

white red

black blue called

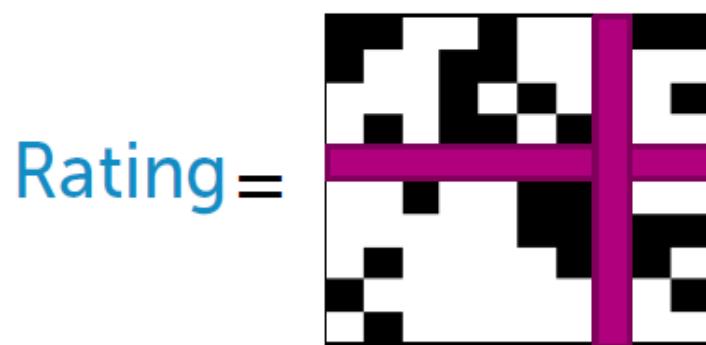
color will head green gold side
 small hand long arms top flag
 horse wear silver common light
 dog wood body type large
yellow between upper and lower part left
 generally traditional black front, fronten arape
 Four feet three feet one three hundred

music musical opera
festival orchestra dance
performed jazz piano theatre
/ performance works

Limitations of matrix factorisation

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- Cold-start problem
 - This model still cannot handle a new user or movie



Cold-start problem more formally

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Consider a new user u' and predicting that user's ratings $\rightarrow L_{u'}$

- No previous observations

$$r_{u'v} = ? \quad \forall v$$

- Objective considered so far:

$$\min_{L,R} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(u,v) \neq r_{uv}} (L_u \cdot R_v - r_{uv})^2 + \frac{\lambda_u}{2} \|L\|_F^2 + \frac{\lambda_v}{2} \|R\|_F^2$$

- Optimal user factor:

$$L_{u'} = 0 \quad \text{only penalty term present}$$

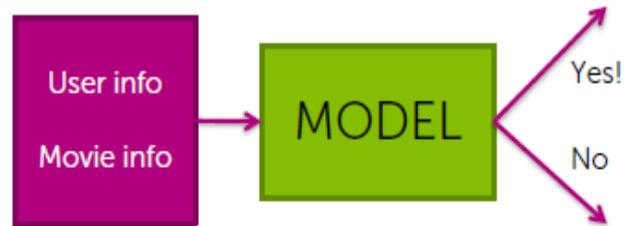
- Predicted user ratings:

always predict: $r_{u'v} = 0 \quad \forall v \quad \dots \text{problem!}$

Combining features and topics

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- Features capture **context**
 - *Time of day, what I just saw, user info, past purchases,...*
- Discovered topics from matrix factorization capture **groups of users** who behave similarly
 - *Women from Seattle who teach and have a baby*
- **Combine** to mitigate cold-start problem
 - Ratings for a new user from **features** only
 - As more information about user is discovered, matrix factorization **topics** become more relevant



Colaborative filtering

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- Create feature vector for each movie (often have this even for new movies):

$$\phi(v) = \begin{pmatrix} \text{genre, year, director, ...} \\ \text{'action', 1994, Tarantino, ...} \end{pmatrix}$$

- Define weights on these features for how much all users like each feature

w = vector of same length

- Fit linear model:

For all users, $r_{uv} \approx w \cdot \underline{\phi(v)}$ standard regression model

- Minimize:

$$\min_w \sum_{v \in V} (w \cdot \phi(v) - r_{uv})^2 + \lambda_w \|w\| \leftarrow \text{LS, ridge, lasso}$$

Building in personalization

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- Of course, users do *not* have identical preferences
- Include a user-specific deviation from the global set of user weights:
- If we don't have any observations about a user, **use wisdom of the crowd**
- As we gain more information about the user, **forget the crowd**
- Can add in user-specific features, and cross-features, too

Featurized matrix factorization: combined approach

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Feature-based approach:

- Feature representation of user and movies fixed
- Can address cold-start problem

Matrix factorization approach:

- Suffers from cold-start problem
- User & movie features are learned from data

A unified model: $r_{uv} \approx L_u \cdot R_v + (w + w_u) \cdot \phi(u, v)$
Solve via coord. desc., grad. desc., etc.

Blending models

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- Squeezing last bit of accuracy by blending models
- Netflix Prize 2006-2009
 - 100M ratings
 - 17,770 movies
 - 480,189 users
 - Predict 3 million ratings to highest accuracy
 - **Winning team blended over 100 models**

The screenshot shows the Netflix Prize Leaderboard page. At the top, it displays "10.05%" with a yellow arrow pointing to it from the text above. Below this, the table header includes columns for Rank, Team Name, Best Score, % Improvement, and Last Submit Time. The winning team, "BellKor's Pragmatic Chaos", is highlighted in a black box at the top of the list, showing a Best Score of 0.8558 and a % Improvement of 10.05. The table also lists other teams like "PragmaticTheory", "BellKor in BioChaos", and "Grand Prize Team".

Rank	Team Name	Best Score	% Improvement	Last Submit Time
Grand Prize - RMSE <= 0.8563				
1	BellKor's Pragmatic Chaos	0.8558	10.05	2009-06-26 18:42:37
2	PragmaticTheory	0.8562	9.80	2009-06-25 22:15:51
3	BellKor in BioChaos	0.8590	9.71	2009-05-13 08:14:09
4	Grand Prize Team	0.8593	9.68	2009-06-12 08:20:24
5	Dace	0.8604	9.56	2009-04-22 05:57:03
6	BigChaos	0.8613	9.47	2009-06-23 23:06:52

Recommender system: how effective?

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The world of all baby products



Recommending system: how effective?

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User likes subset of items



Recommender system: how effective?

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Why not use classification accuracy?

- Classification accuracy = fraction of items correctly classified (*liked* vs. *not liked*)
- Here, **not** interested in what a person *does not like*
- Rather, how quickly can we discover the relatively few *liked* items?
 - (Partially) an imbalanced class problem

Recommending system: how effective?

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How many liked items were recommended?



Recommending system: how effective?

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How many recommended items were liked?

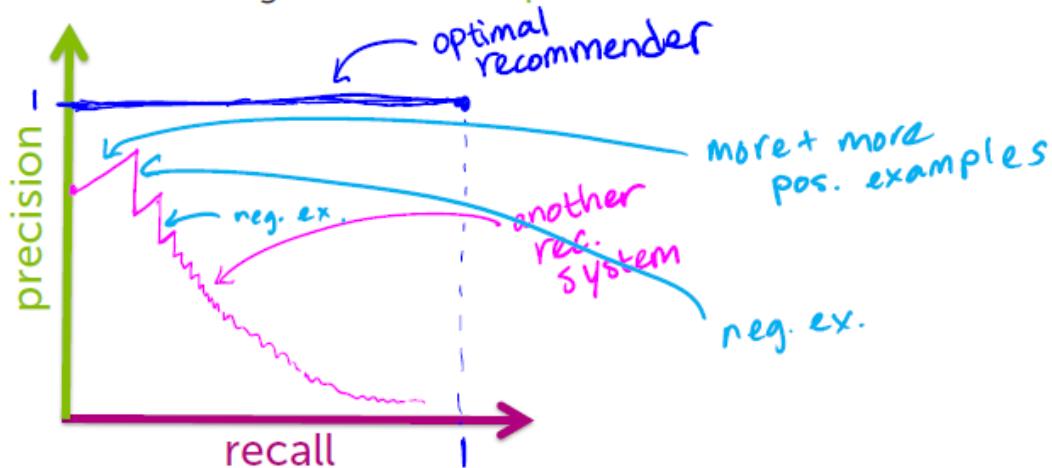


Recommending system: how effective?

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Precision-recall curve

- **Input:** A specific recommender system
- **Output:** Algorithm-specific precision-recall curve
- To draw curve, vary threshold on # items recommended
 - For each setting, calculate the **precision** and **recall**

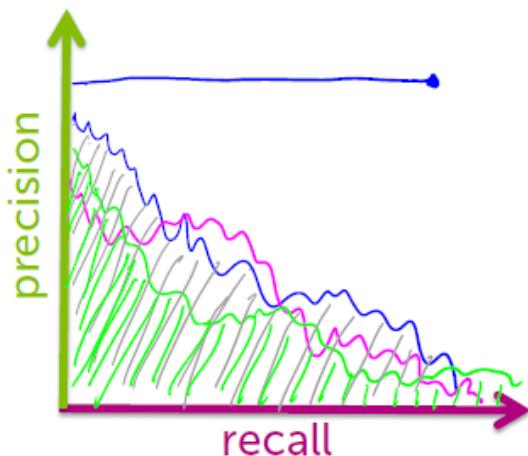


Recommending system: how effective?

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Which Algorithm is Best?

- For a given **precision**, want **recall** as large as possible (or vice versa)
- One metric: largest area under the curve (AUC)
- Another: set desired recall and maximize precision (precision at k)



Recommender system

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Models

- Collaborative filtering
- Matrix factorization
- PCA

Algorithms

- Coordinate descent
- Eigen decomposition
- SVD

Concepts

- Matrix completion, eigenvalues, random projections, cold-start problem, diversity, scaling up