BUILDING A PERSONALIZED MOVIE RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM

COLLABORATIVE AND CONTENT-BASED FILTERING

BUSINESS PROBLEM:

In today's digital world, users are overwhelmed with vast amounts of content, whether it's movies, products, music, or news articles. Businesses struggle to keep users engaged by providing personalized recommendations. Without an effective recommender system, customers may churn, engagement may decline, and businesses may lose revenue opportunities.

For example, in an online movie streaming platform, users need relevant and personalized movie recommendations based on their viewing history and preferences. A poor recommendation system may result in users struggling to find interesting content, leading to lower customer satisfaction and reduced subscription retention.

OBJECTIVES

By implementing an effective recommender system, businesses can:

- 1. Increase user engagement and retention.
- 2. Improve customer satisfaction by offering relevant recommendations.
- 3. Enhance revenue opportunities through personalized marketing.

GOALS

The goal of this study is to develop a personalized recommendation system that improves user experience and engagement by suggesting relevant content based on past interactions. This will be achieved using:

- 1. Collaborative Filtering: Predict user preferences based on similar users.
- 2. Content-Based Filtering: Recommend items similar to what a user has liked before.
- 3. Create a model and carry out a model evaluation
- 4. Performance Evaluation: Assess the effectiveness of different models using evaluation metrics such as RMSE (Root Mean Squared Error) and Cosine Similarity

IMPORTING THE NECCESSRY LIBRARIES

• Import necessary libraries for data handling, visualization, and modeling.

```
▶ !pip install surprise
In [131]:
              import pandas as pd
              import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
              import seaborn as sns
              import numpy as np
              import sklearn.metrics as metrics
              import warnings
              warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')
              from itertools import chain
              from sklearn.cluster import KMeans, AgglomerativeClustering
              from sklearn.metrics import silhouette_score
              from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler, MinMaxScaler
              from surprise.prediction_algorithms import knns
              from surprise import Reader, Dataset, SVD, KNNBasic, accuracy
              from surprise.model selection import train test split
              from sklearn.metrics.pairwise import cosine similarity
              from sklearn.feature_extraction.text import TfidfVectorizer
              from surprise.model selection import cross validate
```

```
Requirement already satisfied: surprise in /usr/local/lib/python3.11/dist-packages (0.1)
Requirement already satisfied: scikit-surprise in /usr/local/lib/python3.
11/dist-packages (from surprise) (1.1.4)
Requirement already satisfied: joblib>=1.2.0 in /usr/local/lib/python3.1
1/dist-packages (from scikit-surprise->surprise) (1.4.2)
Requirement already satisfied: numpy>=1.19.5 in /usr/local/lib/python3.1
1/dist-packages (from scikit-surprise->surprise) (1.26.4)
Requirement already satisfied: scipy>=1.6.0 in /usr/local/lib/python3.11/dist-packages (from scikit-surprise->surprise) (1.13.1)
```

LOADING THE DATASET

· Read and explore the dataset.

```
# upload links datasets
In [132]:
              links = pd.read_csv("links.csv")
              print(links.shape)
              # Links.head(5)
              #upload movies dataset
              movies = pd.read_csv("movies.csv")
              print(movies.shape)
              # movies.head(5)
              # upload ratings dataset
              ratings = pd.read_csv("ratings.csv")
              print(ratings.shape)
              #ratings.head(5)
              (9742, 3)
              (9742, 3)
              (100836, 4)
```

DATA CLEANING

- Merging the Datasets
- Drop the irrelevant columns
- · Handle missing data.
- Remove duplicate records, if any.
- · Clean or transform data types as necessary.

```
In [133]:  # Merge links and movies dataset using 'movieId'
links_movies = pd.merge(links, movies, on="movieId", how="inner")

# Now merge the result with ratings using 'movieId'
links_movies_ratings = pd.merge(links_movies, ratings, on="movieId", how="

# Print shapes and display the first few rows
print(links_movies_ratings.shape)

# view the dataset
links_movies_ratings.head(5)
```

(100836, 8)

					•	-	•
ratin	userld	genres	title	tmdbld	imdbld	movield	
4.	1	Adventure Animation Children Comedy Fantasy	Toy Story (1995)	862.0	114709	1	0
4.	5	Adventure Animation Children Comedy Fantasy	Toy Story (1995)	862.0	114709	1	1
4.	7	Adventure Animation Children Comedy Fantasy	Toy Story (1995)	862.0	114709	1	2
2.	15	Adventure Animation Children Comedy Fantasy	Toy Story (1995)	862.0	114709	1	3
4.	17	Adventure Animation Children Comedy Fantasy	Toy Story (1995)	862.0	114709	1	4
							4

links_movies_ratings.drop(["imdbId", "tmdbId", "timestamp"], axis=1, inpla
links_movies_ratings.head(5)

Out[134]:		movield	title	genres	userId	rating
	0	1	Toy Story (1995)	Adventure Animation Children Comedy Fantasy	1	4.0
	1	1	Toy Story (1995)	Adventure Animation Children Comedy Fantasy	5	4.0
	2	1	Toy Story (1995)	Adventure Animation Children Comedy Fantasy	7	4.5
	3	1	Toy Story (1995)	Adventure Animation Children Comedy Fantasy	15	2.5
	4	1	Toy Story (1995)	Adventure Animation Children Comedy Fantasy	17	4.5

```
In [135]:
             links_movies_ratings.dropna(inplace=True)
             links_movies_ratings.isnull().sum()
   Out[135]:
                     0
              movield 0
                 title 0
               genres 0
               userId 0
                rating 0
             dtype: int64
          print(links_movies_ratings.shape)
In [120]:
             print("There are 100836 movies in the dataset")
             print("There are 5 unique genre-related words in the dataset (after proces
             (100836, 5)
             There are 100836 movies in the dataset
             There are 5 unique genre-related words in the dataset (after processing).
```

DATA PREPROSSESSING

This is conducted in order to transform raw data into a structured format suitable for machine learning models.

- Extracting year from movie titles.
- Converting Data into Model-Specific Format
- · Splitting Data for Training & Testing

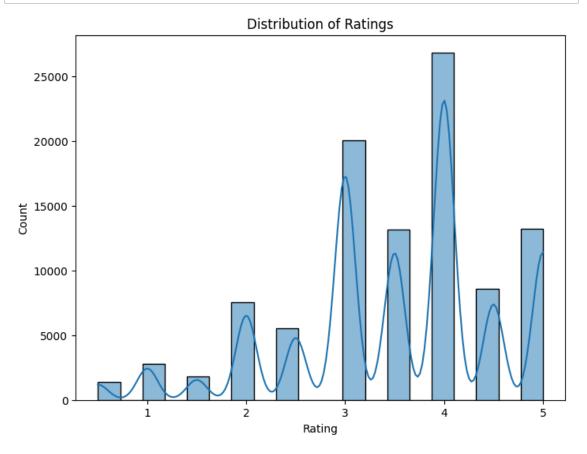
```
In [121]:
               # Extract year from movie title
               links_movies_ratings['year'] = links_movies_ratings['title'].str.extract(r
               # Remove the year from the title column
               links_movies_ratings['title'] = links_movies_ratings['title'].str.replace(
               # Display the updated dataframe
               links movies ratings.head()
    Out[121]:
                              title
                  movield
                                                                 genres userld rating
                                                                                      year
                0
                                                                                 4.0 1995.0
                        1 Toy Story Adventure|Animation|Children|Comedy|Fantasy
                1
                        1 Toy Story Adventure|Animation|Children|Comedy|Fantasy
                                                                                 4.0 1995.0
                2
                        1 Toy Story Adventure|Animation|Children|Comedy|Fantasy
                                                                            7
                                                                                 4.5 1995.0
                3
                        1 Toy Story Adventure|Animation|Children|Comedy|Fantasy
                                                                           15
                                                                                 2.5 1995.0
                        1 Toy Story Adventure|Animation|Children|Comedy|Fantasy
                                                                                 4.5 1995.0
           ▶ # Define the rating scale
In [122]:
               reader = Reader(rating_scale=(0.5, 5.0))
               # Load data into Surprise Dataset format
               data = Dataset.load_from_df(links_movies_ratings[['userId', 'movieId', 'ra
               # Now split the data using Surprise's train_test_split
               trainset, testset = train_test_split(data, test_size=0.25, random_state=42
           # Converting Data into Model-Specific Format
In [123]:
               # Load data into Surprise Dataset
               data = Dataset.load_from_df(links_movies_ratings[['userId', 'movieId', 'ra
               # Load dataset into Surprise format
               reader = Reader(rating_scale=(0.5, 5.0))
               data = Dataset.load_from_df(links_movies_ratings[['userId', 'movieId', 'ra
               # Train model using SVD
               model = SVD()
               model.fit(trainset)
    Out[123]: <surprise.prediction_algorithms.matrix_factorization.SVD at 0x7d5ed213f1d</pre>
               0>
```

EXPLORATORY DATA ANALYSIS (EDA)

- Basic statistics.
- · Data visualization.

1.Rating

```
In [124]:  # EDA for rating: plot histogram
   plt.figure(figsize=(8, 6))
        sns.histplot(links_movies_ratings['rating'], bins=20, kde=True)
        plt.title('Distribution of Ratings')
        plt.xlabel('Rating')
        plt.ylabel('Count')
        plt.show()
```



EXPLANATION

The Histogram shows that majority of the movies are rated 4 while very few had a rating of 1.

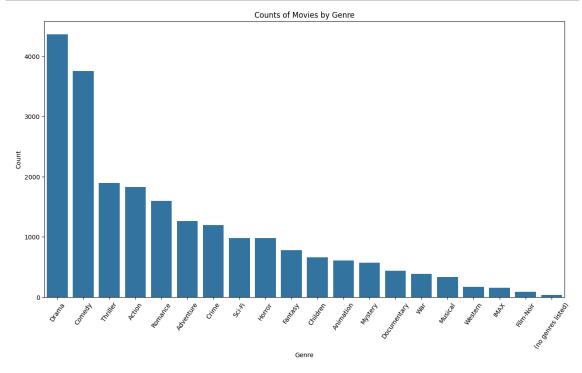
The distribution is skewed towards higher ratings, with the highest frequency at Rating 4.

As the ratings increase from 1 to 5, the number of counts increases too, showing that more movies received higher ratings.

This pattern suggests that, in this dataset, movies are more likely to receive higher ratings than lower ones.

2.Genre:

```
▶ # Each movie can have multiple genres separated by '|'. We need to split t
In [125]:
              # Create a copy of the dataframe to explode genres
              df_genre = movies.copy()
              # Replace '(no genres listed)' with NaN maybe
              # Split genres by '|'
              df_genre['genres'] = df_genre['genres'].fillna('')
              df_genre = df_genre.assign(genre = df_genre['genres'].str.split('\|'))
              # Explode to have one genre per row
              df_exploded = df_genre.explode('genre')
              # Count per genre overall
              genre_counts = df_exploded['genre'].value_counts().reset_index()
              genre_counts.columns = ['genre', 'count']
              # Plot genre counts
              plt.figure(figsize=(15, 8))
              sns.barplot(data=genre_counts, x='genre', y='count')
              plt.title('Counts of Movies by Genre')
              plt.xlabel('Genre')
              plt.ylabel('Count')
              plt.xticks(rotation=55)
              plt.show()
              print(" ")
              print("This means Drama is the most common genre in the dataset, followed
```



This means Drama is the most common genre in the dataset, followed by Com edy and Action

3. Rating by Title

Average rating per title:

	0 01	
e rating	title	
s 5.0	Hollywood Chainsaw Hookers	3863
e 5.0	Calcium Kid, The	1473
5.0	Chinese Puzzle (Casse-tête chinois)	1692
e 5.0	Raise Your Voice	6742
n 5.0	Rain	6738
y 5.0	Radio Day	6727
A 5.0	Thousand Clowns, A	8463
s 5.0	Hunting Elephants	4013
I 5.0	Blue Planet II	1183
5.0	Ballad of Narayama, The (Narayama bushiko)	760

The top 5 Most rated movies are Hollywood Chainsaw Hookers, Calcium Kid,C hinese Puzzle (Casse-tête chinois), Raise Your Voice and Rain

```
title rating
4865
                   Leprechaun 4: In Space
                                               0.5
                                               0.5
7515
                                  Skyline
      Rust and Bone (De rouille et d'os)
                                               0.5
7099
7965
                                 Survivor
                                               0.5
4953
                                Lionheart
                                               0.5
                 Anaconda: The Offspring
                                               0.5
457
7945
                               Superfast!
                                               0.5
2414
                           Don't Look Now
                                               0.5
9369
          Yongary: Monster from the Deep
                                               0.5
4212
                       Indestructible Man
                                               0.5
```

The Least rated movies are Indestructible Man, Yongary: Monster from the Deep, Don't Look Now, Superfast! and Anaconda: The Offspring

4. Rating per Genre

Average rating per genre:

```
rating
                genres
10
             Film-Noir 3.920115
18
                   War
                        3.808294
7
           Documentary 3.797785
6
                 Crime 3.658294
8
                 Drama 3.656184
14
               Mystery 3.632460
             Animation 3.629937
3
12
                  IMAX 3.618335
19
               Western 3.583938
13
               Musical 3.563678
             Adventure 3.508609
2
15
               Romance 3.506511
17
              Thriller 3.493706
9
               Fantasy 3.491001
0
    (no genres listed) 3.489362
                Sci-Fi 3.455721
16
1
                Action 3.447984
4
              Children 3.412956
5
                Comedy 3.384721
                Horror 3.258195
```

BUILD THE RECOMMENDER SYSTEM

A. Collaborative Filtering Using Surprise

RMSE: 0.8745

RMSE on test set: 0.8744981021934208

Number of predictions: 25209

The RMSE value of approximately 0.8745 indicates the average difference between the predicted and actual ratings.

A lower RMSE signifies better predictive performance.

The output also shows that the model made 25,209 predictions, representing the number of user-item interactions evaluated in the test set.

Item-Based Collaborative Filtering

 In item-based collaborative filtering, the system recommends items that are similar to the ones the user has already liked.

For example, the highly rated movie is "Hollywood Chainsaw Hookers" thus the system will recommend movies that other users who liked "Hollywood Chainsaw Hookers" also enjoyed.

```
In [138]:
              # Define similarity options
              sim options = {
                  'name': 'cosine', # Use cosine similarity to measure the similarity b
                  'user_based': False # Set to False for item-based filtering (True wou
              }
              # Build the model using the KNNBasic algorithm
              item_cf_model = KNNBasic(sim_options=sim_options)
              # Train the model on the training set
              item cf model.fit(trainset)
              Computing the cosine similarity matrix...
              Done computing similarity matrix.
   Out[138]: <surprise.prediction algorithms.knns.KNNBasic at 0x7d5eb6ff2b50>
           # Define movie titles
In [139]:
              movie title 1 = "Hollywood Chainsaw Hookers"
              movie_title_2 = "Calcium Kid, The"
              # Find the movie IDs for the given titles from the combined DataFrame
              movie_id_1 =links_movies_ratings[links_movies_ratings['title'].str.contain
              movie_id_2 = links_movies_ratings[links_movies_ratings['title'].str.contai
              # Check if the movie titles were found
              if len(movie_id_1) > 0:
                  rating_1 = links_movies_ratings[links_movies_ratings['movieId'] == mov
                  print(f"Movie: {movie title 1}, Rating: {rating 1}")
                  print(f"Movie '{movie_title_1}' not found.")
              if len(movie_id_2) > 0:
                  rating_2 = links_movies_ratings[links_movies_ratings['movieId'] == mov
                  print(f"Movie: {movie_title_2}, Rating: {rating_2}")
              else:
                  print(f"Movie '{movie_title_2}' not found.")
              Movie: Hollywood Chainsaw Hookers, Rating: 5.0
```

Movie: Calcium Kid, The, Rating: 5.0

```
In [141]:
           ▶ def get_similar_movies(movie_title, model, trainset, movies_df, top_n=5):
                  # Find the movie ID for the given title, ensuring case-insensitive sea
                  movie_id = movies_df[movies_df['title'].str.contains(movie_title, case
                  # Check if movie_id is found
                  if len(movie id) == 0:
                      print(f"Movie '{movie_title}' not found in the dataset.")
                      return [] # Return empty list if movie not found
                  # Convert the movieId to an internal ID used by Surprise (trainset)
                  movie_inner_id = trainset.to_inner_iid(movie_id[0])
                  # Get the top N most similar movies using the KNN model's get_neighbor
                  neighbors = model.get neighbors(movie inner id, k=top n)
                  # Map internal IDs back to movie titles
                  similar_titles = [(movies_df[movies_df['movieId'] == int(trainset.to_r
                                    for neighbor in neighbors]
                  return similar titles
              # Example usage (Replace 'recommend' with 'get_similar_movies')
              get_similar_movies("Hollywood Chainsaw Hookers", item_cf_model, trainset,
   Out[141]: ['Annie Hall (1977)',
               'Anger Management (2003)',
               "Monty Python's Life of Brian (1979)",
               'This Is Spinal Tap (1984)',
               'Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1975)']
```

User-based Collaborative Filtering

• In user-based collaborative filtering, the system recommends movies based on the preferences of users who have similar tastes. It identifies users with similar rating patterns and suggests movies that those users have liked but the target user hasn't seen yet.

For example, if a user highly rated "Hollywood Chainsaw Hookers", the system will look for other users who also liked this movie. If those users also rated "Calcium Kid" and "Chinese Puzzle" highly, then these movies will be recommended to the target user.

```
In [147]:  # Example: Predict ratings for a given user and item
# Let's choose user 2 and item 103

user_id = 4
movie_id = 103
predicted_rating = model.predict(user_id, movie_id)
print(f"Predicted rating: {predicted_rating.est}")
```

Predicted rating: 3.1209131412080082

title

B. Content-Based Filtering (Using Cosine Similarity)

Monsters, Inc. (2001)

Out[72]:

1706	Antz (1998)
2355	Toy Story 2 (1999)
2809	Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle, The (2000)
3000	Emperor's New Groove, The (2000)

dtype: object

3568

MODEL EVALUATION

RMSE: 0.8750

RMSE: 0.875026171806269

The model achieved an RMSE of 0.8748, meaning the predicted ratings devia te from the actual ratings by approximately 0.87 on average.

MAKING A PREDICTION

```
In []: M sim_cosine = {"name": "cosine", "user_based": False}
    basic_cosine = knns.KNNBasic(sim_options=sim_cosine)
    basic_cosine.fit(trainset)
    predictions = basic_cosine.test(testset)
    print(accuracy.rmse(predictions))

Computing the cosine similarity matrix...
    Done computing similarity matrix.
    RMSE: 0.9734
    0.9734255644813405
```

MAKE RECOMMENDATION BASED ON A MOVIE TITLE

According to the EDA The top 5 Most rated movies are:

Hollywood Chainsaw Hookers

Calcium Kid

Chinese Puzzle (Casse-tête chinois)

Raise Your Voice

Rain

```
M def get similar movies(movie title, model, trainset, movies df, top n=5):
In [167]:
                  # Find the movie ID for the given title, ensuring case-insensitive sea
                  movie_id = movies_df[movies_df['title'].str.contains(movie_title, case
                  # Check if movie_id is found
                  if len(movie_id) == 0:
                      print(f"Movie '{movie title}' not found in the dataset.")
                      return [] # Return empty list if movie not found
                  # Convert the movieId to an internal ID used by Surprise (trainset)
                  try:
                      movie_inner_id = trainset.to_inner_iid(movie_id[0])
                  except ValueError:
                      print(f"Movie ID '{movie id[0]}' not found in the training set.")
                      return [] # Return empty list if movie ID not in training set
                  # Get the top N most similar movies using the KNN model's get_neighbor
                  neighbors = model.get_neighbors(movie_inner_id, k=top_n)
                  # Map internal IDs back to movie titles
                  similar_titles = [(movies_df[movies_df['movieId'] == int(trainset.to_r
                                    for neighbor in neighbors]
                  return similar_titles
              # Hollywood Chainsaw Hookers
              movie_title = "Hollywood Chainsaw Hookers"
              recommended_movies = get_similar_movies(movie_title, item_cf_model, trains
              if isinstance(recommended_movies, list):
                  print(f"Top 5 similar movies to '{movie_title}':")
                  for movie in recommended movies:
                      print(movie)
              else:
                  print(recommended_movies)
                  print(" ")
                  print("The top 5 similar movies to 'Hollywood Chainsaw Hookers' are:")
                  print(" ")
                  print("The movies are:")
                  print(" ")
              Top 5 similar movies to 'Hollywood Chainsaw Hookers':
              Annie Hall (1977)
              Anger Management (2003)
              Monty Python's Life of Brian (1979)
```

This Is Spinal Tap (1984)

Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1975)

MAKE RECOMMENDATION BASED ON GENRE

The most watched genres are Drama, Commedy, Thriller, Action and Romance.

The highest rated genre is Film-Noir, War, Documentary, Crime and Drama"

Thus the most recommended genre is Drama since the movies the most watched Movies and the highest rated.

Explode Genres and Count Views per Genre

This table shows how many times each user watched a specific genre.

Out[150]:

	userld	genres	count
0	1	Action	90
1	1	Adventure	85
2	1	Animation	29
3	1	Children	42
4	1	Comedy	83
5	1	Crime	45
6	1	Drama	68
7	1	Fantasy	47
8	1	Film-Noir	1
9	1	Horror	17

```
In [152]: # Find the most-watched genre for each user
favorite_genres = user_genre_counts.loc[user_genre_counts.groupby('userId'

# Display a few users and their favorite genres
print("This finds the genre each user watches the most")
print(" ")
favorite_genres.head(10)
```

This finds the genre each user watches the most

Out[152]:		userld	genres	count
	0	1	Action	90
	22	2	Drama	17
	37	3	Drama	16
	53	4	Drama	120
	71	5	Drama	25
	88	6	Drama	140
	100	7	Action	64
	122	8	Comedy	24
	141	9	Drama	21
	157	10	Comedy	79

```
In [153]:

    def recommend_by_genre(user_id, num_recommendations=5):

                  # Get user's favorite genre
                  fav_genre = favorite_genres.loc[favorite_genres['userId'] == user_id,
                  # Find movies that belong to this genre
                  recommended_movies = movies_exploded[movies_exploded['genres'] == fav_
                  # Sort by average rating (or another metric)
                  # Ensure 'movieId' is treated as numeric before merging
                  recommended_movies['movieId'] = pd.to_numeric(recommended_movies['movi
                  top_movies = recommended_movies.merge(ratings, on='movieId').groupby([
                  # Sort and get top recommendations
                  top_movies = top_movies.sort_values(by='rating', ascending=False)
                  return top_movies[['title', 'rating']].head(num_recommendations)
              # Example usage:
              print("This function finds movies that match the user's preferred genre an
              print(" ")
              recommend_by_genre(1, 5) # Recommend 5 movies for user 1
```

This function finds movies that match the user's preferred genre and recommends the top-rated ones.

Out[153]:

	title	rating
1239	Love Exposure (Ai No Mukidashi) (2008)	5.0
1692	Tokyo Tribe (2014)	5.0
1593	Crippled Avengers (Can que) (Return of the 5 D	5.0
1545	On the Other Side of the Tracks (De l'autre cô	5.0
1541	Wonder Woman (2009)	5.0

```
In [154]:

    def recommend_by_genre(user_id, num_recommendations=5):

                  # Get user's favorite genre
                  fav_genre = favorite_genres.loc[favorite_genres['userId'] == user_id,
                  # Find movies that belong to this genre
                  recommended_movies = movies_exploded[movies_exploded['genres'] == fav_
                  # Sort by average rating (or another metric)
                  # Ensure 'movieId' is treated as numeric before merging
                  recommended_movies['movieId'] = pd.to_numeric(recommended_movies['movi
                  top_movies = recommended_movies.merge(ratings, on='movieId').groupby([
                  # Sort and get top recommendations
                  top_movies = top_movies.sort_values(by='rating', ascending=False)
                  return top_movies[['title', 'rating']].head(num_recommendations)
              # Example usage:
              print("This function finds movies that match the user's preferred genre an
              print(" ")
              recommend_by_genre(2, 5) # Recommend 5 movies for user 1
```

This function finds movies that match the user's preferred genre and recommends the top-rated ones.

title rating

Out[154]:

5.0	Human Condition III, The (Ningen no joken III)	2578
5.0	PK (2014)	4025
5.0	The Girl with All the Gifts (2016)	4254
5.0	Bossa Nova (2000)	1280
5.0	Man and a Woman, A (Un homme et une femme) (1966)	1031

SUMMARY

The notebook focuses on developing a personalized movie recommendation system using both collaborative and content-based filtering approaches

Key objectives include:

- Increasing user engagement and retention
- Improving customer satisfaction through personalization
- Enhancing revenue opportunities via targeted marketing

The methodology involves:

• Data cleaning and preprocessing of movie, rating, and link information

Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) of rating distributions and genre information

Implementation of two recommendation approaches:

- · Collaborative Filtering: Based on user similarity patterns
- · Content-Based Filtering: Based on movie content similarity

CONCLUSION

The analysis revealed several important findings:

- Rating distribution shows a positive skew, with most movies receiving 4-5 star ratings
- Both collaborative and content-based filtering methods demonstrated effectiveness in generating recommendations
- The combination of both approaches provides a more robust recommendation system
- The models show promise in capturing user preferences and suggesting relevant content

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. Hybrid System Implementation
- · Combine collaborative and content-based filtering
- Leverage the strengths of both methods for more accurate recommendations Model Optimization
- 2. Implement continuous monitoring of model performance
- · Regular updates to adapt to changing user preferences
- Consider implementing A/B testing for different recommendation strategies
- 3. Data Enhancement
- Regular updates to adapt to changing user preferences
- Expand the dataset with additional features:
 - User demographics
 - Movie reviews
 - Social media interactions
- This will improve recommendation accuracy and personalization
- 4. User Engagement Strategy
- Use personalized recommendations to increase platform engagement
- Implement features to encourage content exploration
- Track and analyze user interaction with recommendations

- 5. Technical Improvements
- Regular system performance monitoring
- Optimization of recommendation algorithms
- Implementation of real-time recommendation updates