

Answering to why-not questions in group recommendations

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Basic idea

This presentation shows how we have implemented answers to why-not questions.

Granularity case - Atomic

For atomic why-not questions we decided to use general answers to respond, such as "item does not exists", "tie break", "too few items asked".

Granularity case - Group

Our answers are based on the likelihood of a movie belonging to certain genre, begin included among the groups top 20 movies. If group has watched a lot of dramas but only a few westerns it is highly likely that the top 20 movies include more dramas than documentaries. (Assuming the the users like dramas and westerns equally)

N = Number of movies seen by group

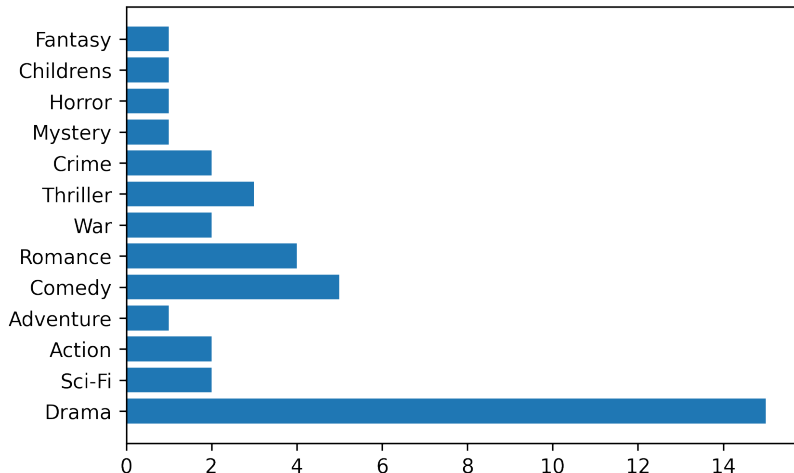
N_g = number of movies of particular genre seen by group

$P(A)$ = Likelihood of why-not genre belonging to top 20 movies

$$P(A) = 1 - P(\bar{A}) = 1 - \frac{\binom{N-N_g}{20}}{\binom{N}{20}}$$

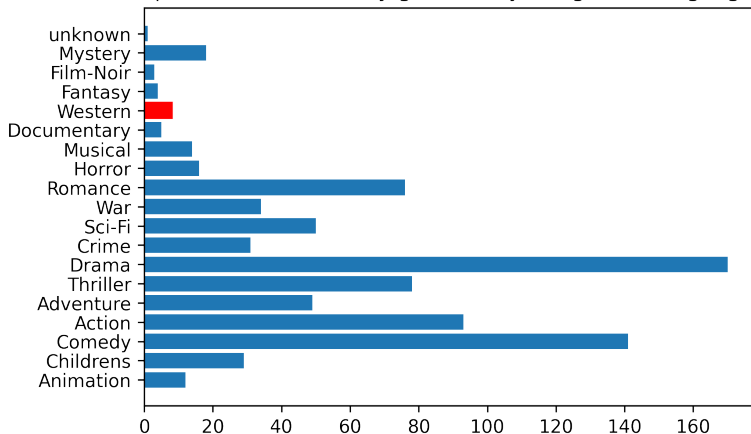
Group histogram

Top 20 recommendations by genre



Group histograms

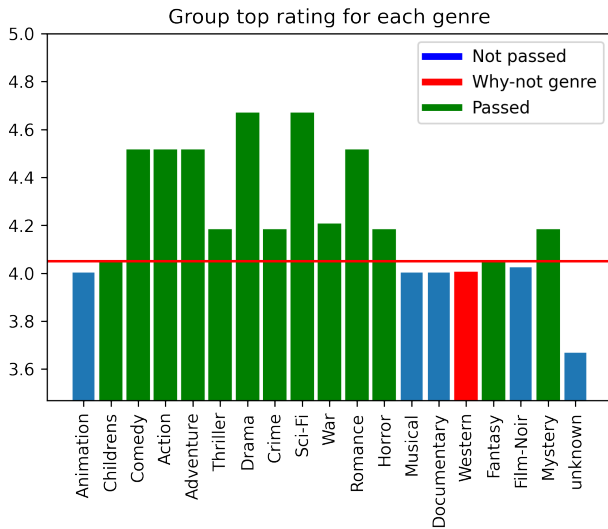
Group common movies by genre (why not genre is highlighted)



Group - most highly rated movies per genre

Other way we answer why-not questions for groups is by looking at most highly rated movies for the group in each genre. Since we known the threshold that was needed to be included in the top 20 list, we can say when users haven't rated the movies of the given genre as highly as was needed to exceed that threshold.

Rating thresholds



Absenteeism

We answer absenteeism case by comparing item i in question with the corresponding item j at wanted position pos as defined in the why-not question. Our function takes an item i for which we want to know why it is not in position pos . The function then tells how many positions the item i was behind the item in position pos .

Absenteeism

We also compare items i and j in terms of how the users of the given group have rated them.

Absenteeism - Item comparison

