



# Chapter 6: Recommender Systems---Latent Factor Models

崔金华

电子邮箱: [jhcui@hust.edu.cn](mailto:jhcui@hust.edu.cn)

个人主页: <https://csjhcui.github.io/>

## □ Training data

- 100 million ratings(1亿条打分数据), 480,000 users, 17,770 movies
- 6 years of data: 2000-2005

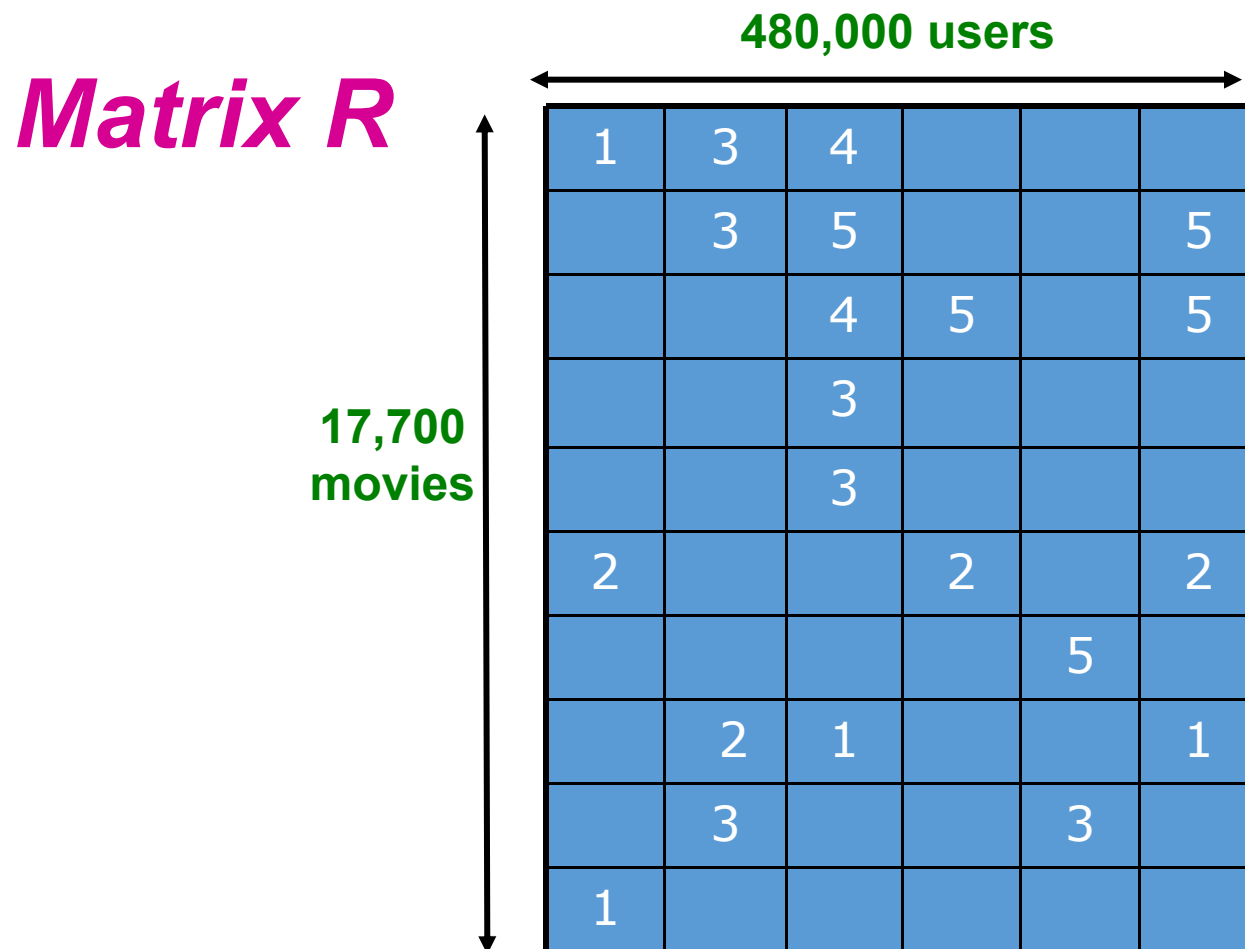
## □ Test data

- Last few ratings of each user (280万条数据)
- **Evaluation criterion:** Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) (均方误差) =  
$$\frac{1}{|R|} \sqrt{\sum_{(i,x) \in R} (\hat{r}_{xi} - r_{xi})^2}$$
- **Netflix' s CineMath system RMSE: 0.9514**

## □ Competition

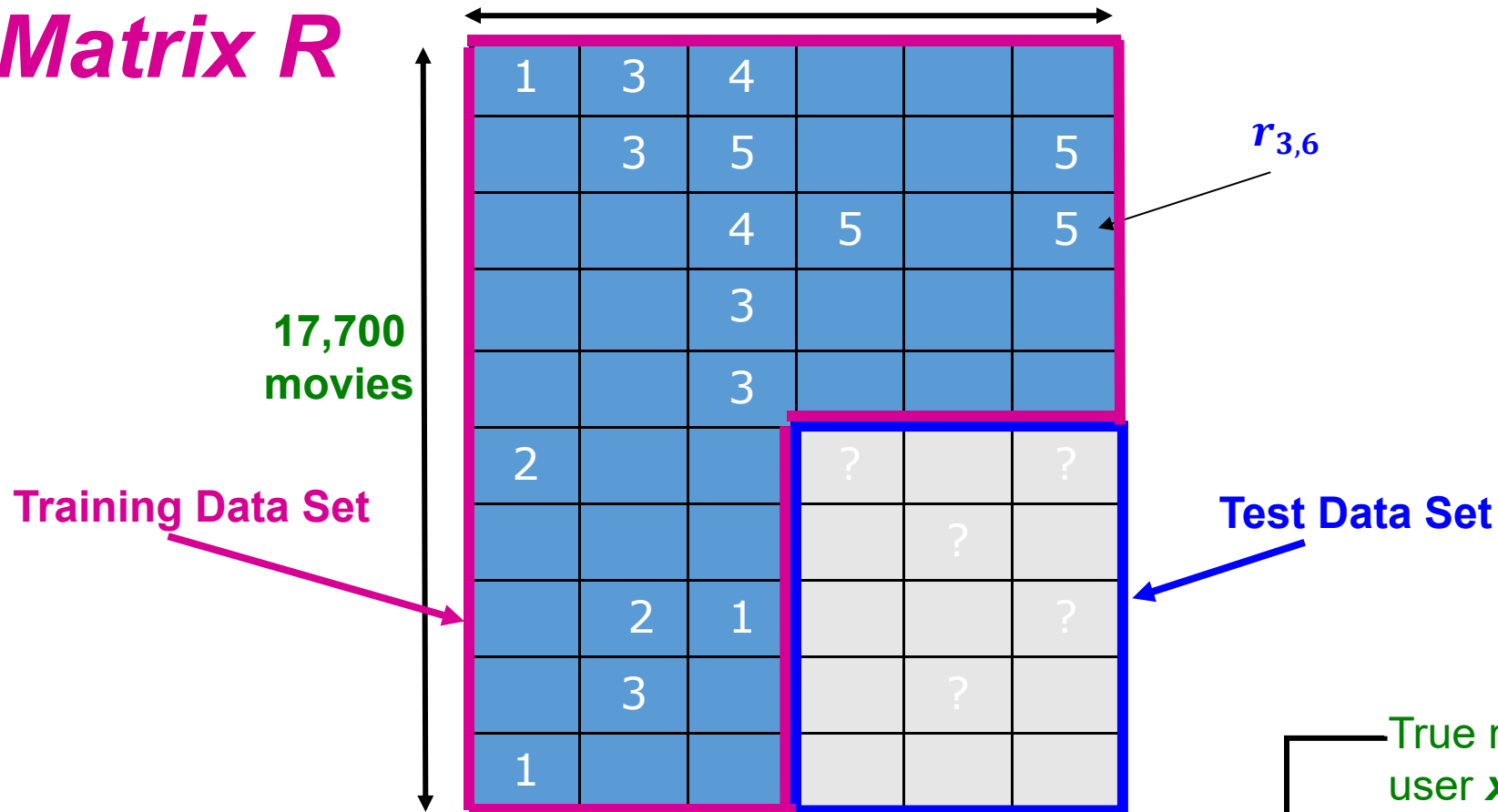
- 2,700+ teams
- **\$1 million** prize (100万美元大奖) for 10% improvement on Netflix

# The Netflix Utility Matrix $R$



# Utility Matrix $R$ : Evaluation

**Matrix  $R$**



$$\text{RMSE} = \frac{1}{|R|} \sqrt{\sum_{(i,x) \in R} (\hat{r}_{xi} - r_{xi})^2}$$

❑ **BellKor's Pragmatic Chaos(BPC), the winner of the Netflix Challenge!**

❑ **Multi-scale modeling of the data:**

Combine top level, "regional" modeling of the data, with a refined, local view:

➤ **Global:**

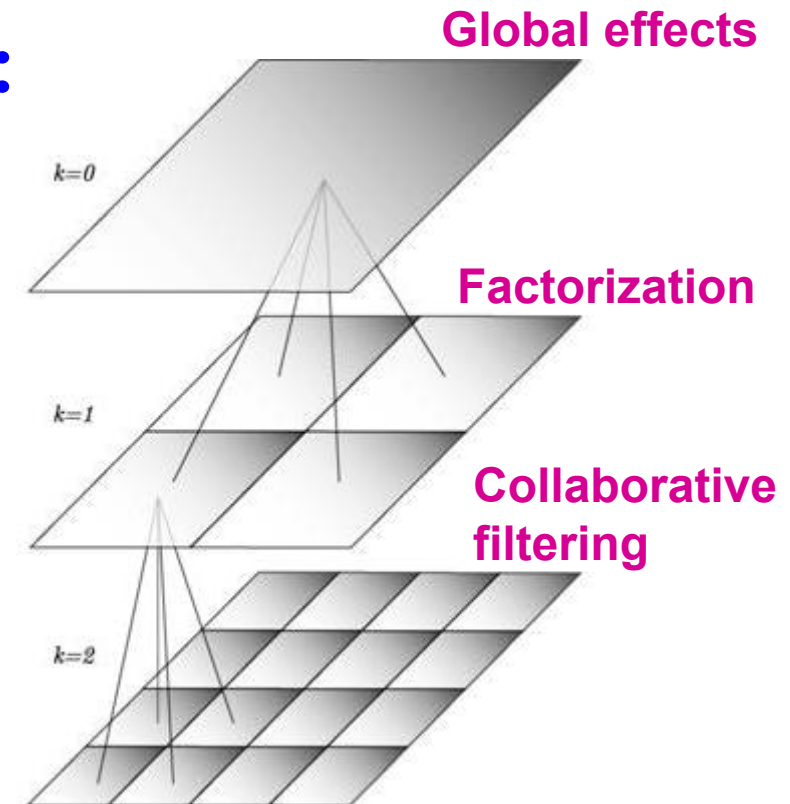
- Overall deviations of users/movies

➤ **Factorization(矩阵分解):**

- Addressing "regional" effects

➤ **Collaborative filtering:**

- Extract local patterns



Papers: 《The BellKor Solution to the Netflix Grand Prize》  
《The Pragmatic Theory Solution to the Netflix Grand Prize》  
《The BitChaos Solution to the Netflix Grand Prize》

# Modeling Local & Global Effects

## Global:

- Mean movie rating(电影的平均打分): **3.7 stars**
- *The Sixth Sense* 《第六感》 is **0.5** stars above avg.
- Joe rates **0.2** stars below avg.  
⇒ **Baseline estimation:**  
*Joe will rate The Sixth Sense  $3.7 + 0.5 - 0.2 = 4$  stars*



## Local neighborhood (e.g., CF基于协同过滤, NN基于神经网络):

- Joe didn't like related movie *Signs* 《天兆》
- ⇒ **Final estimate:**  
*Joe will rate The Sixth Sense 3.8 stars*



- Earliest and most popular **collaborative filtering method**  
(基于协同过滤的推荐方法)
- Derive unknown ratings from those of “**similar**” movies  
(item-item variant)
- Define **similarity measure**  $s_{ij}$  of items  $i$  and  $j$
- Select  **$k$ -nearest neighbors**, compute the rating:
  - $N(i; x)$ : items most similar to  $i$  that were rated by  $x$

$$\hat{r}_{xi} = \frac{\sum_{j \in N(i; x)} s_{ij} \cdot r_{xj}}{\sum_{j \in N(i; x)} s_{ij}}$$

$s_{ij}$ ... similarity of items  $i$  and  $j$   
 $r_{xj}$ ... rating of user  $x$  on item  $j$   
 $N(i; x)$ ... set of items similar to  
item  $i$  that were rated by  $x$



□ In practice we get better estimates if we model deviations:

$$\hat{r}_{xi} = \underbrace{b_{xi}}_{\text{baseline estimate for } r_{xi}} + \frac{\sum_{j \in N(i;x)} \underbrace{s_{ij}}_{\text{blue box}} \cdot (\underbrace{r_{xj}}_{\text{green box}} - \underbrace{b_{xj}}_{\text{orange box}})}{\sum_{j \in N(i;x)} \underbrace{s_{ij}}_{\text{blue box}}}$$

$b_{xi} = \mu + b_x + b_i$

*e.g., Item-item CF  $r_{xi}$ ,  
then  $N r_{xj}$*

$\mu$  = overall mean rating  
 $b_x$  = rating deviation of user  $x$ ,  
= (avg. rating of user  $x$ ) -  $\mu$   
 $b_i$  = (avg. rating of movie  $i$ ) -  $\mu$   
 $\hat{r}_{xi}$ : predicted rating of user  $x$  on item  $i$   
 $r_{xj}$ : rating of user  $x$  on item  $j$   
 $s_{ij}$ : similarity of item  $i$  and  $j$   
 $N(i;x)$ : set of items similar to item  $i$

## Problems/Issues:

- 1) Similarity measures are “arbitrary”
  - 2) Pairwise similarities neglect interdependencies among users
  - 3) Taking a weighted average can be restricting
- Solution:** Instead of  $s_{ij}$  use  $w_{ij}$  that we estimate directly from data



# Idea: Interpolation Weights $w_{ij}$

□ Use a **weighted sum** rather than **weighted avg.**:

$$\widehat{r_{xi}} = b_{xi} + \sum_{j \in N(i;x)} w_{ij} (r_{xj} - b_{xj})$$

- $N(i; x)$  ... set of movies rated by user  $x$  that are similar to movie  $i$
- $w_{ij}$  is the **interpolation weight** (插值权值, some real number)
  - We allow:  $\sum_{j \in N(i,x)} w_{ij} \neq 1$
- $w_{ij}$  models interaction between pairs of movies (it does not depend on user  $x$ )

# Idea: Interpolation Weights $w_{ij}$


$$\square \hat{r}_{xi} = b_{xi} + \sum_{j \in N(i;x)} w_{ij} (r_{xj} - b_{xj})$$

## □ How to set $w_{ij}$ ?

- Remember, error metric **RMSE** is:  $\frac{1}{|R|} \sqrt{\sum_{(i,x) \in R} (\hat{r}_{xi} - r_{xi})^2}$  or equivalently **SSE**:  $\sum_{(i,x) \in R} (\hat{r}_{xi} - r_{xi})^2$
- Find  $w_{ij}$  that minimize **SSE** on **training data!**
  - Models relationships between item  $i$  and its neighbors  $j$
- $w_{ij}$  can be **learned/estimated** based on user  $x$  and all other users that rated  $i$

*Why is this a good idea?*

# Recommendations via Optimization



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1	3	4				
	3	5				5
		4	5			5
		3				
		3				
2			2			2
				5		
	2	1				1
	3				3	
1						

## □ Goal: Make good recommendations

- Quantify goodness using **RMSE**:  
**Lower RMSE  $\Rightarrow$  better recommendations**
- Want to make good recommendations on items that user has not yet seen. **Can' t really do this!**
- **Let' s set build a system such that it works well on known (user, item) ratings,** and **hope** the system will also predict well the **unknown ratings**

□ **Idea:** Let' s set values  $w$  such that they work well on known (user, item) ratings

□ **How to find such values  $w$ ?**

□ **Idea:** Define an objective function and solve the optimization problem

□ Find  $w_{ij}$  that minimize **SSE on training data!**

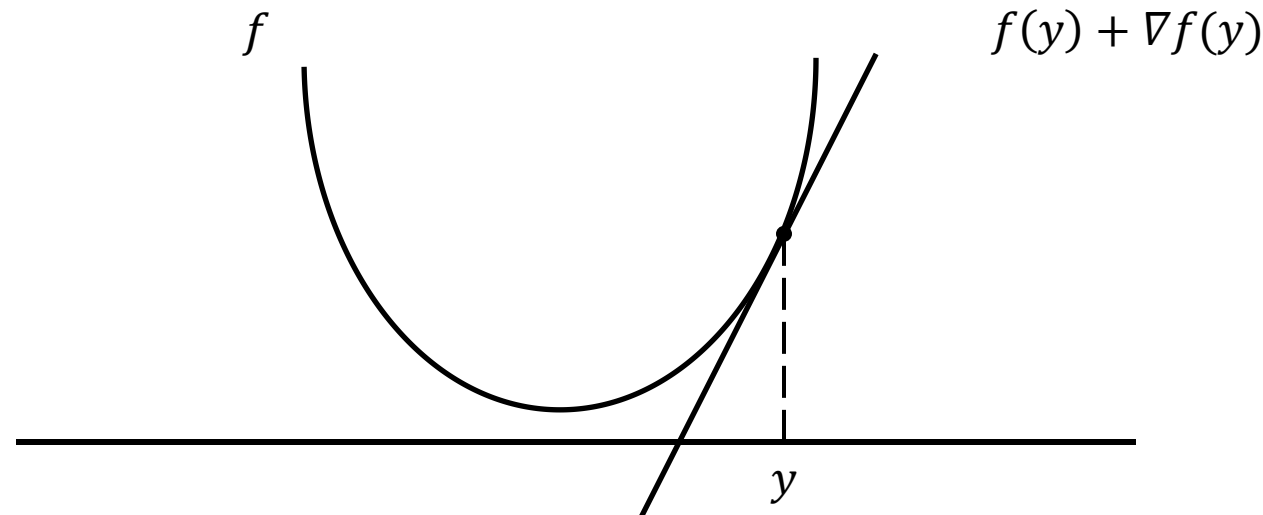
$$J(w) = \sum_{x,i} \left( \underbrace{\left[ b_{xi} + \sum_{j \in N(i;x)} w_{ij}(r_{xj} - b_{xj}) \right]}_{\text{Predicted rating}} - \underbrace{r_{xi}}_{\text{True rating}} \right)^2$$

□ Think of  $w$  as a vector of numbers

# Detour: Minimizing a function

## □ A simple way to minimize a function $f(x)$ :

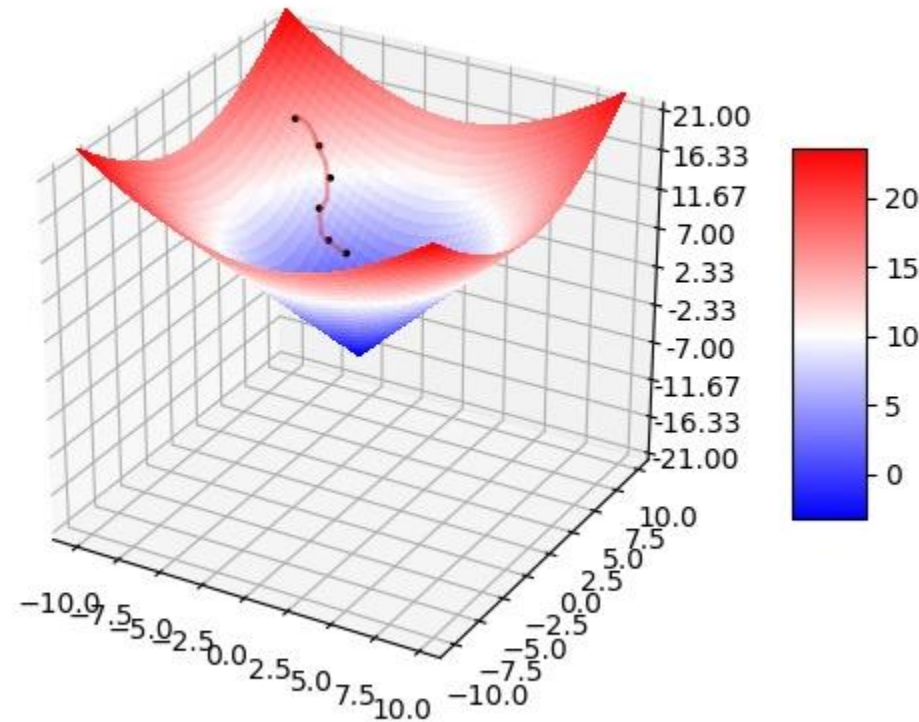
- Compute the take a derivative  $\nabla f$
- **Start at some point  $y$  and evaluate  $\nabla f(y)$**
- **Make a step in the reverse direction of the gradient:  $y = y - \nabla f(y)$**
- **Repeat until converged**



# Detour: Minimizing a function

## □ A simple way to minimize a function $f(x)$ :

- Compute  $\nabla f(y)$
- Start at some initial point  $y$
- Make a step  $\Delta y$  in the direction  $-\nabla f(y)$
- Repeat until convergence



$$y = y - \nabla f(y)$$

(y)

<https://blog.csdn.net/JaysonWong>

# Interpolation Weights

□ We have the optimization problem, now what?

$$J(w) = \sum_x \left( \left[ b_{xi} + \sum_{j \in N(i;x)} w_{ij} (r_{xj} - b_{xj}) \right] - r_{xi} \right)^2$$

□ Gradient decent(梯度下降):

➤ Iterate until convergence:  $w \leftarrow w - \eta \nabla_w J$   $\eta$  ... learning rate

➤ where  $\nabla_w J$  is the gradient (derivative evaluated on data):

$$\nabla_w J = \left[ \frac{\partial J(w)}{\partial w_{ij}} \right] = 2 \sum_{x,i} \left( \left[ b_{xi} + \sum_{k \in N(i;x)} w_{ik} (r_{xk} - b_{xk}) \right] - r_{xi} \right) (r_{xj} - b_{xj})$$

**for**  $j \in \{N(i; x), \forall i, \forall x\}$   
**else**  $\frac{\partial J(w)}{\partial w_{ij}} = 0$

➤ **Note:** We fix movie  $i$ , go over all  $r_{xi}$  for every movie  $j \in N(i; x)$ , we compute  $\frac{\partial J(w)}{\partial w_{ij}}$

**while**  $|w_{new} - w_{old}| > \epsilon$ :

$w_{old} = w_{new}$

$w_{new} = w_{old} - \eta \cdot \nabla w_{old}$



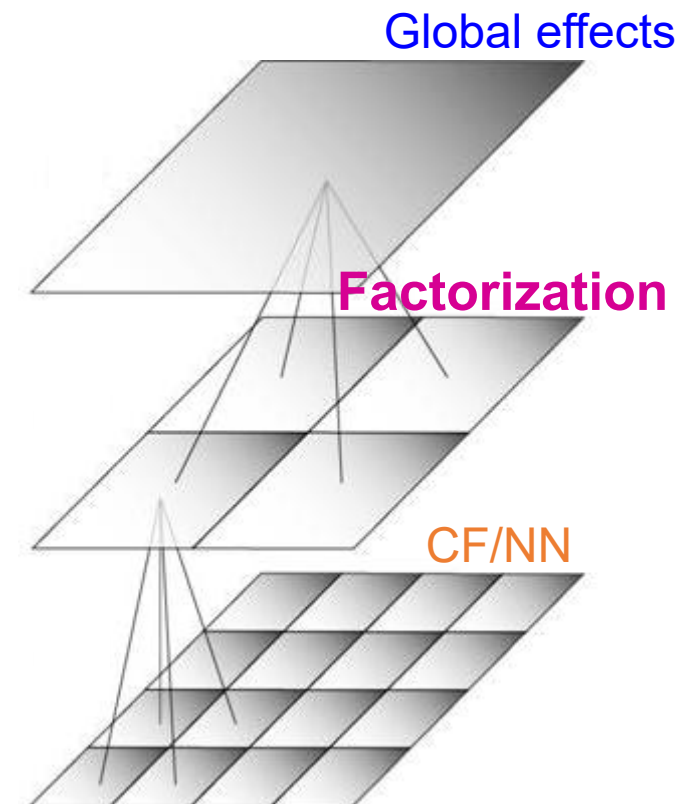
# Interpolation Weights

□ **So far:**  $\widehat{r}_{xi} = b_{xi} + \sum_{j \in N(i;x)} w_{ij} (r_{xj} - b_{xj})$

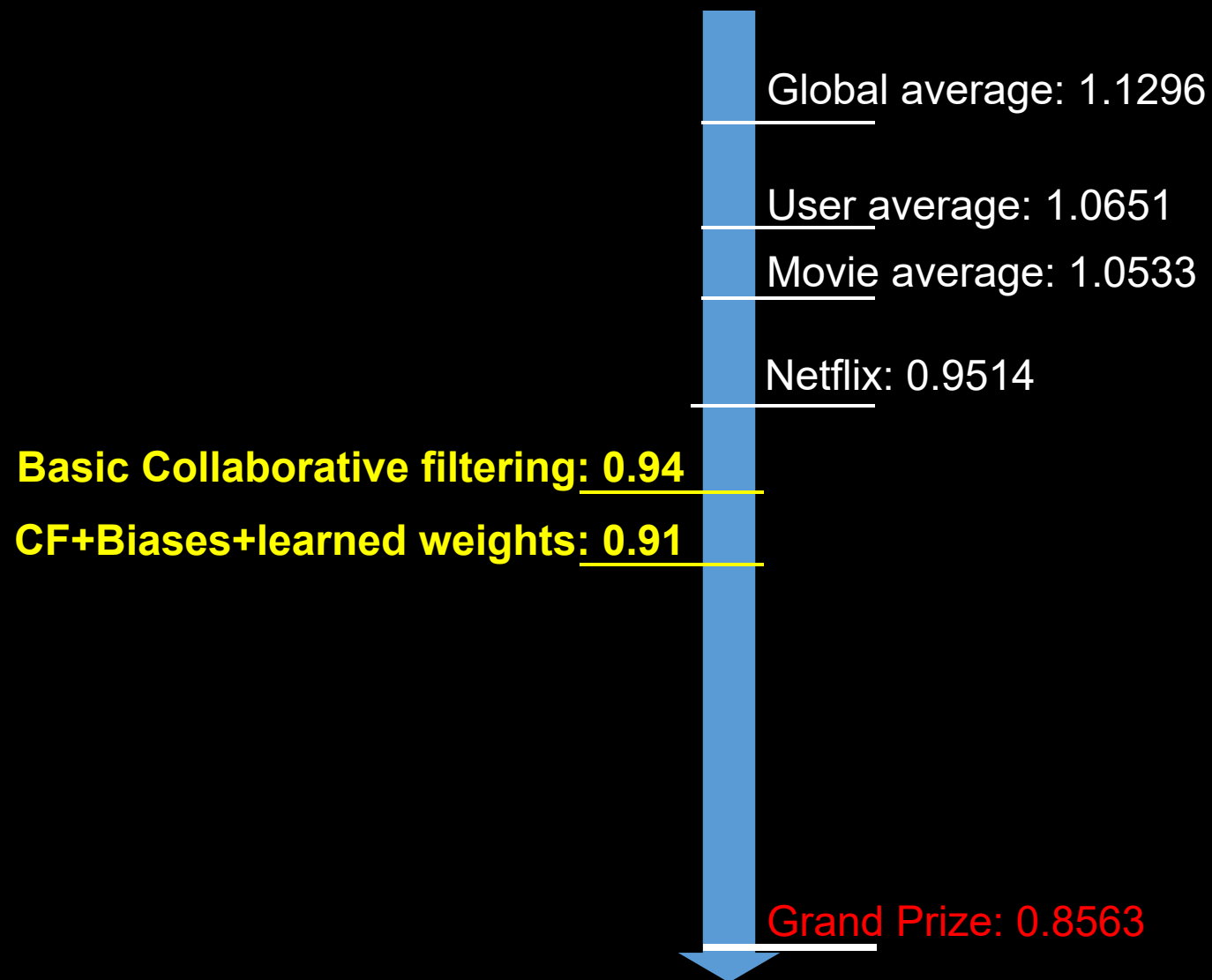
- Weights  $w_{ij}$  derived based on their role; **no use of an arbitrary similarity measure** ( $w_{ij} \neq s_{ij}$ )
- Explicitly account for interrelationships among the neighboring movies

□ **Next: Latent factor model**

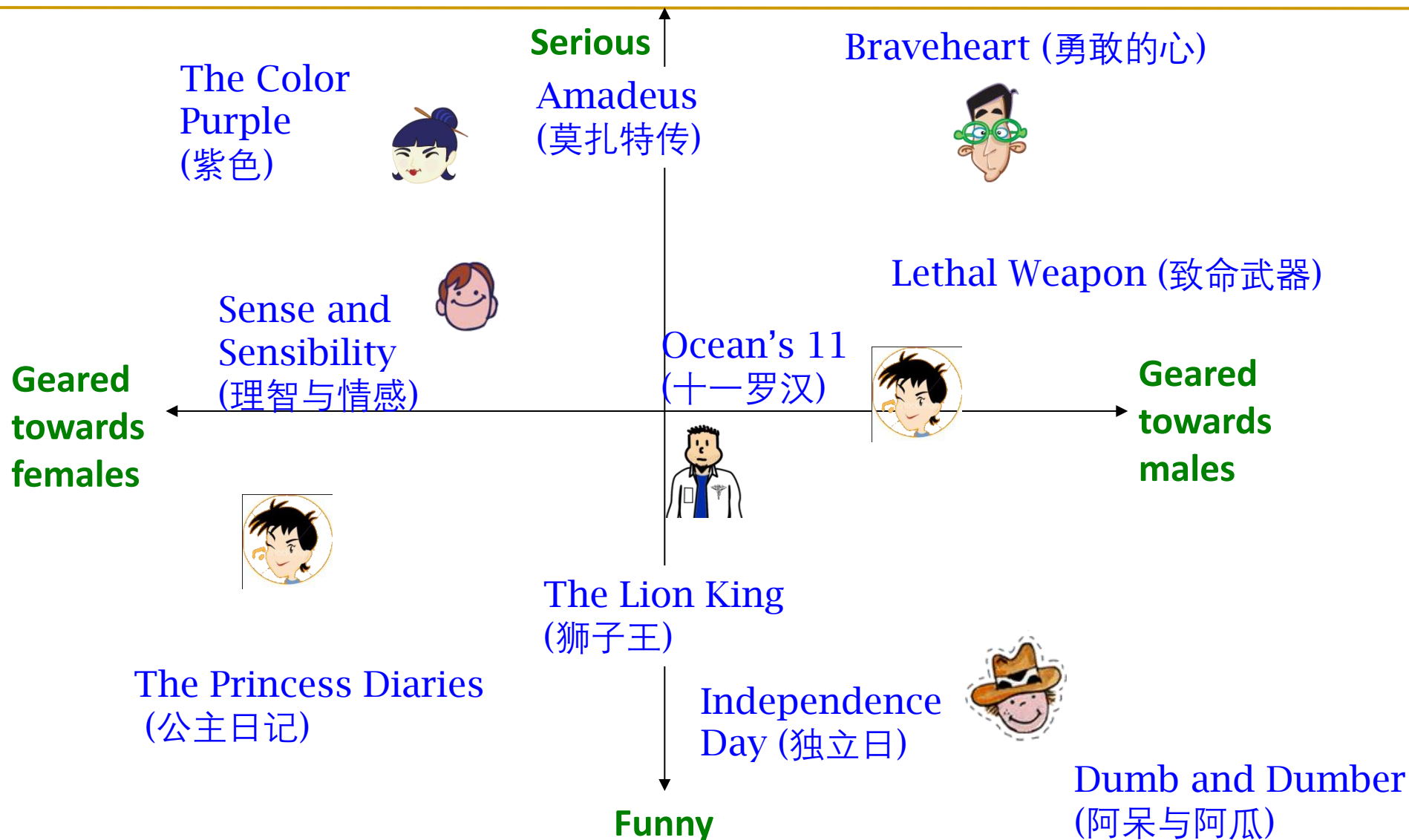
- Extract “regional” correlations



# Performance of Various Methods



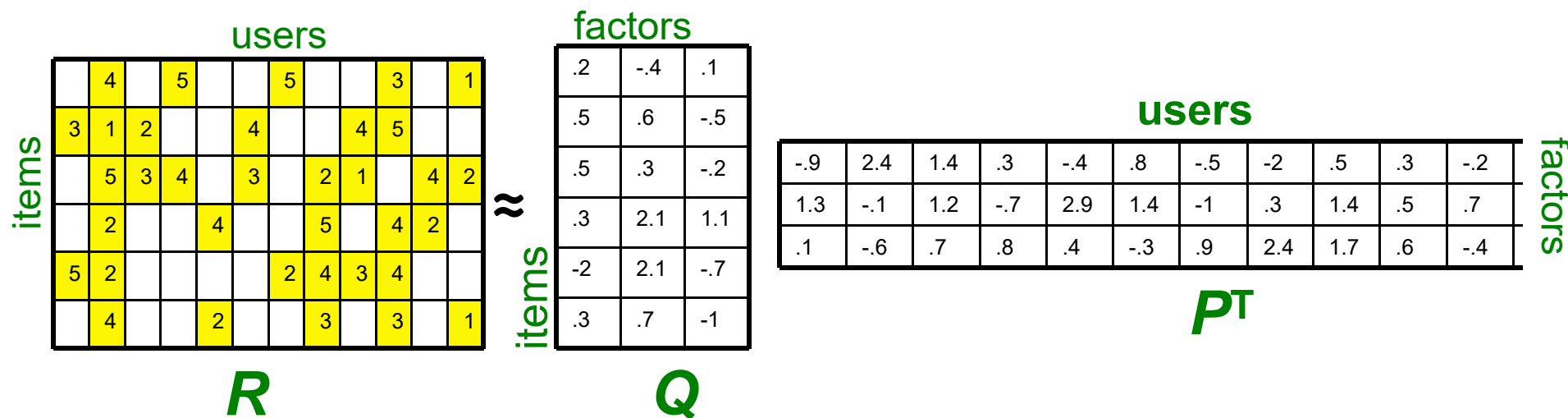
# Latent Factor Models (e.g., SVD)



# Latent Factor Models

□ “SVD” on Netflix data:  $R \approx Q \cdot P^T$

SVD:  $A = U \Sigma V^T$   
(下个章节将会详细讲解)



□ For now let's assume we can approximate the rating matrix  $R$  as a product of "thin"  $Q \cdot P^T$

➤  $R$  has missing entries but let's ignore that for now! Basically, we will want the reconstruction error to be small on known ratings and we don't care about the values on the missing ones