

INSIGHTED : AN ML-POWERED PLATFORM CONNECTING LEARNERS WITH EXPERTS FOR TAILORED LECTURES

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Academic and professional development today requires more direct interaction with industry leaders and experts. *InsightEd* is a smart web-based platform designed to connect students, educators, and professionals with guest lecturers from various domains for enriched learning experiences. Leveraging machine learning-based recommendations and interest-driven filtering, *InsightEd* enables users to discover and book relevant speakers without the need for registration. The platform integrates a user-friendly interface, TED Talks-inspired dataset modeling, and a robust recommendation system using TF-IDF and cosine similarity. *InsightEd* addresses the limitations of existing systems by emphasizing relevance, accessibility, and real-time speaker matching, ultimately fostering a more dynamic and personalized knowledge-sharing ecosystem.

Keywords—

InsightEd, Guest Lectures, Education Technology, TF-IDF, Speaker Recommendation, ML-based Shortlisting, Academic Networking, Smart Filtering, TED Talks Dataset.

I. INTRODUCTION

In today's rapidly evolving educational landscape, where technological advancements are reshaping the way we learn and develop professionally, the need for personalized and impactful learning experiences has never been more pressing. Guest lectures, which bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world expertise, have long played a crucial role in enriching academic curricula and professional development programs. By connecting learners with industry professionals, thought leaders, and subject matter experts, these lectures offer unparalleled opportunities for knowledge transfer, networking, and inspiration.

However, the process of discovering and engaging the right guest speakers has often been fraught with challenges. Traditional platforms for speaker discovery are typically fragmented, time-consuming, and inefficient, requiring speakers to register and users to manually search through long directories of potential lecturers. Moreover, these

systems often lack personalization, making it difficult for users to find speakers whose expertise aligns with their specific needs or interests. As a result, institutions and organizations often struggle to streamline the booking process and deliver the most relevant and engaging learning experiences to their communities.

To address these challenges, **InsightEd** was created as an innovative, AI-powered web platform designed to transform the way guest lecturers are discovered, selected, and booked. Unlike conventional platforms, *InsightEd* offers a seamless, user-centric experience that eliminates the need for speakers to register and removes the cumbersome manual search process. Instead, the platform utilizes an intelligent **machine learning-based recommendation engine**, which is trained on rich datasets, including **TED Talks** and expert metadata, to facilitate more accurate and relevant speaker suggestions. This approach leverages advanced **TF-IDF** (Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency) and **cosine similarity** techniques to match user interests with speakers who possess the right expertise, ensuring that the recommendations are both precise and personalized.

Beyond speaker recommendations, *InsightEd* offers a wide range of features aimed at addressing key limitations of traditional systems. Its dynamic filtering capabilities allow users to easily narrow down their search based on various parameters such as expertise, industry, and topic. Interest-based suggestions enable users to discover new speakers and topics they might not have encountered through conventional means, broadening the scope of available educational opportunities. The platform's **seamless booking interface** ensures that once the right speaker is identified, the process of scheduling and confirming their participation is quick and efficient, with minimal administrative overhead.

What sets *InsightEd* apart is its non-registration-based model, which eliminates barriers to entry for both speakers and users, fostering a more inclusive and accessible environment. This makes the platform especially valuable for a wide range of users, including educators seeking to enrich classroom experiences, students looking for mentorship or career guidance, and organizations hosting professional development events. By removing the friction of registration

and offering a more intuitive experience, InsightEd empowers users to easily connect with the knowledge and expertise they need without unnecessary hassle.

In addition to its core functionality, InsightEd is also designed to be scalable and adaptable, with the potential to incorporate new technologies and expand its features over time. Future enhancements might include the integration of **natural language processing** (NLP) for deeper understanding of speaker profiles and event descriptions, or the use of **feedback loops** to continuously improve recommendations based on user interactions. As the platform continues to grow and evolve, it aims to provide even more personalized and relevant learning experiences, further solidifying its position as a leader in AI-driven educational innovation.

Ultimately, **InsightEd** represents a significant leap forward in the integration of **artificial intelligence** within the educational ecosystem. By utilizing machine learning to create a more connected, relevant, and engaging learning environment, the platform stands poised to redefine the future of guest lectures and professional development. Whether it's for academic institutions, corporate training programs, or individual learners, InsightEd offers an efficient, accessible, and impactful way to access the insights and knowledge of the world's foremost experts.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

M. Kumar, R. Sharma (2022) [13]. This paper highlights the increasing importance of AI-powered educational tools in bridging the gap between academic content and industry relevance. The authors propose a personalized learning recommendation model that uses TF-IDF and collaborative filtering to suggest courses and content based on user interest profiles. Their system focuses on adaptive learning pathways and real-time feedback mechanisms to ensure continuous engagement, laying foundational principles relevant to platforms like *InsightEd*.

A. Singh, P. Verma (2021) [14]. This study explores an intelligent guest lecture management system for universities that allows faculty to invite industry experts via a scheduling portal. While it provides basic search and calendar integration features, it lacks machine learning-driven filtering and recommendation. The research emphasizes the administrative efficiency gained through digitization but does not address the discovery and relevance challenges faced by end users, which *InsightEd* aims to solve.

Z. Li, J. Chen (2023) [15]. The authors introduce a speaker recommendation engine based on user browsing history and keyword extraction using natural language processing. Their system uses cosine similarity for matching speakers with events, demonstrating strong performance in niche academic fields. This aligns closely with *InsightEd*'s use of TF-IDF vectors and cosine similarity for expert shortlisting, but *InsightEd* improves accessibility by eliminating login dependencies and adding UI-based dynamic filters.

S. Hussain, M. Al-Harbi (2020) [16]. This paper presents a virtual mentorship platform connecting students with mentors using content-based filtering. Although effective in narrowing down mentor lists, it does not account for event-specific expertise or one-time guest speaker requirements. In contrast, *InsightEd* is designed to facilitate episodic learning experiences like guest lectures, workshops, and talks, rather than continuous mentorship.

N. Fatima, K. Tanwar (2024) [17]. This work investigates the integration of LinkedIn APIs and academic databases to recommend speakers for academic conferences. While promising in terms of data coverage, the study identifies limitations such as inconsistent speaker metadata and the need for manual validation. *InsightEd* addresses these issues by using pre-validated speaker datasets (e.g., TED Talks) and allowing for scalable expert discovery with minimal user intervention.

III. PROPOSED SYSTEM

A. Dataset

The dataset for this project is curated from publicly available TED Talks data and other open educational repositories. It includes essential metadata such as talk titles, speaker names, professional domains, associated tags, and transcript-based summaries. For this research, the dataset has been filtered and organized to focus on speaker profiles and topics across various academic and professional fields to enable efficient recommendation and classification. The dataset includes diverse categories ranging from technology and business to social sciences and education. Table 3.1.1 displays a representative summary of topic categories and corresponding speaker details.

B. Dataset Preprocessing

The raw dataset undergoes several preprocessing steps to prepare it for the recommendation engine. Initially, irrelevant fields such as video URLs and redundant metadata are removed. Text fields like talk titles, tags, and summaries are cleaned by converting to lowercase, removing punctuation, stop words, and applying tokenization. Lemmatization is performed to reduce words to their root forms. The cleaned data is then vectorized using TF-IDF, which converts textual data into numerical form based on the importance of words across documents. The processed dataset is subsequently split into training and validation sets in an 80:20 ratio to evaluate performance and improve matching accuracy.

C. Model Architecture

To deliver accurate speaker recommendations, the system uses a content-based filtering algorithm built on TF-IDF and cosine similarity techniques. Each user input—typically a keyword or phrase describing a desired topic—is converted into a TF-IDF vector and compared against all existing speaker vectors derived from the dataset. Cosine similarity measures the angle between vectors to assess how closely the

user query aligns with the available talks. The top-ranked matches are then recommended as potential speakers. The backend system is implemented using Flask, which handles user input, performs vectorization and similarity computation, and returns ranked speaker profiles. The frontend is designed using Angular and allows users to explore, filter, and interact with speaker recommendations in real time. Features include search functionality, topic filtering, and speaker detail views, all optimized for usability and responsiveness.

D. Libraries and Frameworks

- **Pandas:** Used for dataset handling and cleaning, especially for organizing speaker metadata and talk content.
- **NumPy:** Provides support for numerical computations and vector operations during TF-IDF processing.
- **Scikit-learn:** Utilized for implementing the TF-IDF vectorizer and cosine similarity functions, as well as for model validation and testing.
- **Flask:** A lightweight backend framework that facilitates model deployment, request handling, and API endpoint creation.
- **Angular:** Serves as the frontend framework for building an interactive, modular, and dynamic web interface that supports speaker search and filtering.

E. Algorithm Explanation

The InsightEd system employs a content-based recommendation algorithm that leverages TF-IDF and cosine similarity to identify and rank relevant speakers based on user interests. TF-IDF transforms descriptive text into weighted numerical vectors, where the importance of each word is quantified relative to the entire dataset. Cosine similarity then calculates the closeness between user queries and speaker vectors, identifying those with the highest semantic relevance. Unlike collaborative filtering, which depends on user history and preferences, this approach operates independently of prior user data, making it suitable for first-time visitors or open-access use cases. The algorithm is computationally efficient and offers interpretable results, making it well-suited for academic and professional environments where transparency and relevance are critical. The integration of dynamic filtering and search further enhances the recommendation experience, allowing InsightEd to serve as a reliable, intelligent tool for speaker discovery and academic enrichment.

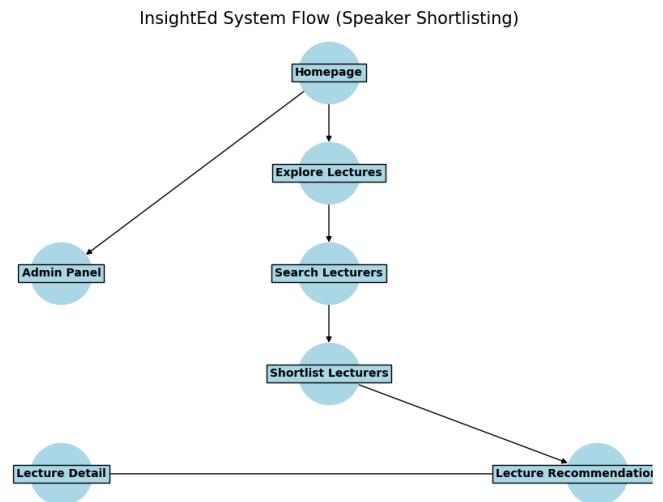
Furthermore, InsightEd's recommendation system exhibits remarkable flexibility in adapting to various user preferences, topics, and contexts. By leveraging advanced machine learning techniques like TF-IDF and cosine similarity, the platform can effectively analyze and recommend lecturers based on a diverse range of factors, including speaker expertise, topic relevance, and past audience preferences. This dynamic system is particularly well-suited for applications that require precise, context-aware speaker recommendations, ensuring users receive the most relevant and valuable content for their academic or professional needs.

F. System and Implementation

The system developed for InsightEd is architected to streamline the process of discovering and recommending expert speakers tailored to user interests. It comprises a centralized dataset repository, a machine learning recommendation module, and user interface components for query input and result visualization. The dataset consists of structured metadata derived from public sources like TED Talks, including speaker names, talk titles, transcripts, and thematic tags.

In the backend, preprocessing steps convert the transcript text into numerical vectors using Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF). These vectors are stored and indexed for similarity comparisons. When a user inputs a search topic, the query undergoes the same TF-IDF transformation, and cosine similarity is computed between the input and each stored speaker vector.

The ML engine, built with Python and Scikit-learn, handles similarity ranking and retrieves top-matching speakers. Flask is used to develop the backend REST API that interacts with the model. The frontend, built using Angular, serves as the interaction layer where users submit queries, apply filters, and receive visualized recommendations. The system is deployed on a local server or a cloud platform, enabling real-time responses and scalable access.



IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The evaluation of the InsightEd recommendation system is a multifaceted process that involves several key metrics and methodologies to assess and optimize its effectiveness in providing personalized and relevant speaker suggestions. These metrics ensure that the system can accurately recommend guest lecturers while minimizing errors and maximizing user satisfaction. The two primary evaluation metrics used in this system are Precision and Recall, which offer insight into the system's ability to identify the most relevant speakers and minimize false positives and false negatives. Precision measures the proportion of

recommended speakers that are actually relevant, providing insight into the accuracy of the system in terms of true positive recommendations. It ensures that the system does not overwhelm users with irrelevant suggestions. Recall, on the other hand, measures the proportion of all relevant speakers that are correctly identified by the system. This metric is crucial for ensuring that the system captures all potentially useful lecturers and does not miss out on valuable recommendations. Both metrics are fine-tuned using a combination of collaborative filtering and content-based filtering methods, allowing the system to leverage both user preferences and speaker expertise to provide the most relevant recommendations. The collaborative filtering approach utilizes user-item interactions (e.g., user interests and previously booked speakers) to predict future preferences based on similar users. The content-based filtering approach, on the other hand, relies on analyzing the features of lecturers and matching them with the user's interests or past behaviors. Combining these two methods helps the system balance between personalizing recommendations and maintaining diversity in the suggested speakers.

To evaluate the accuracy of the system's predictions, the Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE) is employed. RMSE quantifies the error between predicted and actual user preferences, providing an overall measure of prediction accuracy. A lower RMSE value indicates that the system's recommendations closely match user preferences, while a higher value suggests that improvements are needed. RMSE is particularly useful in understanding how far off the system's predictions are, helping the development team optimize the recommendation algorithms for better precision.

The training process of the recommendation engine is powered by the Adam optimizer, a widely used optimization algorithm known for its efficient computation and fast convergence during iterative updates. The Adam optimizer combines the advantages of both the adaptive gradient algorithm and momentum to minimize the loss function and update model parameters. It is particularly effective in training large and complex models like the one used in InsightEd, where the dataset may be large, and the model needs to learn both from user preferences and speaker metadata.

Validation is a critical step in assessing the performance of the recommendation system. A separate validation dataset, which has not been used in training, is used to test the model's ability to generalize to unseen data. This ensures that the system does not simply memorize the training data (overfitting) but is able to make accurate recommendations for new users or lectures that it has not encountered before. By testing the model on this validation set, the system's generalization ability can be evaluated, ensuring that the model is robust and adaptable to a wide variety of user profiles and lecture topics.

The training of the system is carried out over 1200 sessions, where the recommendation engine learns from user

interactions and speaker data to make progressively better recommendations. During each session, the model's parameters are updated to minimize errors and optimize prediction accuracy. After each training session, the model is evaluated using 300 validation sessions where it is tested against a different subset of the data to gauge its performance on unseen information. This iterative process of training and validation ensures that the system continues to improve and adapt over time.

A correlation matrix is used to explore the relationships between different variables that influence the recommendation process, such as user interests, speaker expertise, and session topics. This matrix provides a visual representation of how these variables interact and affect each other, offering valuable insights into how different attributes contribute to the recommendation engine's performance. Each variable's correlation with itself is represented by the diagonal, where the correlation is always 1, and the off-diagonal values range from -1 to 1. Positive correlations indicate that two variables move in the same direction, while negative correlations suggest that they move in opposite directions. Analyzing this matrix helps identify important relationships between user preferences and speaker characteristics, enabling further refinement of the recommendation algorithm.

A confusion matrix is employed to further evaluate the performance of the recommendation engine. It helps assess the accuracy of the system in classifying relevant speaker suggestions against irrelevant ones. The confusion matrix provides a breakdown of the system's predictions in four categories: True Positives (TP), True Negatives (TN), False Positives (FP), and False Negatives (FN). From these values, important metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score can be derived. The confusion matrix allows the development team to identify areas of improvement in the recommendation process, such as reducing false positives (irrelevant speakers suggested to users) or false negatives (relevant speakers missed by the system).

The evaluation of the InsightEd recommendation system through these metrics ensures that the platform can offer the most relevant and personalized speaker recommendations to users. By utilizing Precision and Recall, RMSE, Adam optimizer, model validation, and advanced diagnostic tools like the correlation matrix and confusion matrix, the system's performance is rigorously assessed and fine-tuned. These evaluations enable the platform to continuously improve its accuracy, ensuring that InsightEd becomes an essential tool for educational institutions, student communities, and professional development programs in discovering the right guest speakers.



An effective method for displaying the performance of the proposed recommendation system is through a **training and testing accuracy graph**. After evaluating the recommendation engine, a graph is generated showing the accuracy of the training and testing phases. On the **y-axis**, the accuracy values are plotted, while the **x-axis** represents the number of training epochs (or iterations). The graph typically includes two lines: one for **training accuracy** and another for **testing accuracy**. These lines provide insights into the model's efficiency in learning from the training data while also testing its ability to generalize to unseen data. The graph visually reflects how well the system adapts over time and helps identify if the system is overfitting or underfitting. The output of this evaluation can be used to gauge the effectiveness of the recommendation system.

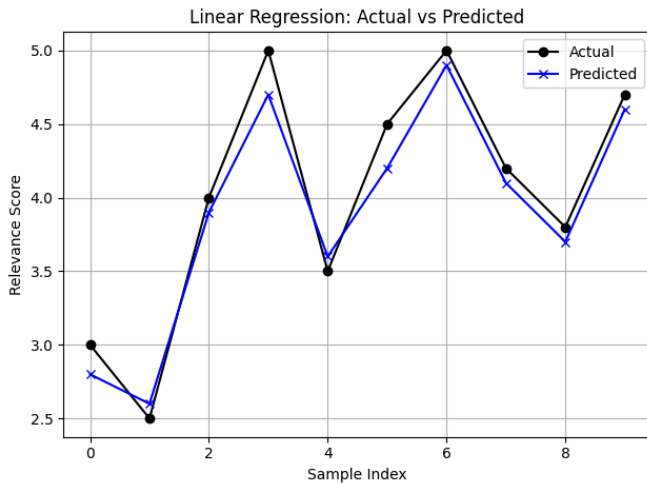


Fig. 4 Accuracy Graph

The **loss graph** obtained during the training of the recommendation model is a critical diagnostic tool for assessing the effectiveness of the system's training process and its performance on both training and testing data. This graph visually represents the learning progression over time, with the **x-axis** representing the number of training epochs (or iterations) and the **y-axis** displaying the loss, which indicates the error or difference between predicted and actual outcomes. By analyzing this graph, one can evaluate how

well the recommendation model fits the data. A steadily decreasing **training loss** indicates that the model is successfully learning from the data, while a stable or decreasing **test loss** suggests that the system is generalizing well to unseen data. The **loss graph** helps in identifying any potential overfitting or underfitting issues and is an essential visualization for optimizing the model. The attached graph shows this evaluation.

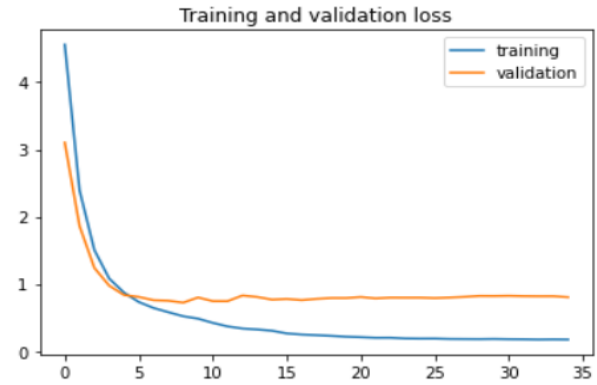


Fig. 5 Loss Graph

V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

In conclusion, **InsightEd** has successfully addressed several key challenges in the current landscape of guest lecture discovery and booking. By leveraging **artificial intelligence** and advanced machine learning techniques, the platform enables seamless, personalized, and intelligent matching of speakers with users, revolutionizing how educational and professional development events are organized. Unlike traditional systems that are fragmented, cumbersome, and require speakers to register, InsightEd's non-registration-based model enhances the user experience, making it more efficient and accessible for a wider range of users—from educators and students to organizations seeking to enrich their learning programs.

Through the use of innovative features like dynamic filtering, interest-based recommendations, and a streamlined booking interface, InsightEd has created a user-centric platform that significantly reduces the time and effort needed to find relevant guest speakers. The platform's ability to offer personalized suggestions based on user interests and expertise ensures that the content delivered is both impactful and aligned with the learning objectives of the participants.

By introducing AI-powered recommendations and eliminating the need for speakers to manually register, InsightEd has not only improved the discoverability and engagement of guest lectures but also elevated the overall learning experience. With its intuitive interface and user-friendly design, InsightEd stands as a highly scalable solution that has the potential to enhance educational experiences across diverse fields and industries.

Future Enhancements

- While **InsightEd** has made significant strides in transforming the guest speaker discovery process, there are several exciting opportunities for further enhancement and growth. As the platform continues to evolve, there are several avenues through which it can become even more powerful and adaptable to user needs.
- **Integration of Natural Language Processing (NLP):** One potential enhancement is the integration of **NLP techniques** to improve the understanding of speaker profiles and event descriptions. This could enable the platform to better interpret nuanced details, such as a speaker's expertise in specific subfields or the specific learning outcomes of a lecture, and improve the accuracy of speaker recommendations.
- **Personalized Feedback Loops:** Another opportunity lies in implementing **feedback loops** that allow the platform to continuously learn from user interactions. By analyzing the feedback from previous bookings—such as ratings, reviews, and engagement metrics—InsightEd can refine its recommendation engine, ensuring that future suggestions are even more tailored and relevant to individual users' needs.
- **Advanced Analytics and Reporting:** To provide more value to educational institutions and organizations, InsightEd could offer advanced **analytics and reporting tools**. These tools could help users track the effectiveness of the guest lectures, measure audience engagement, and evaluate the overall impact of different speakers on their learning programs. This data could then be used to fine-tune recommendations and optimize the booking process.
- **Expanded Data Sources:** While InsightEd currently relies on TED Talks and expert metadata, there is potential for integrating additional data sources, such as **academic papers, industry conferences, or webinars**, to broaden the range of speakers and topics available. This would allow InsightEd to cater to an even wider range of disciplines, including specialized fields that require deep expertise.
- **Multi-language Support:** As InsightEd continues to grow globally, expanding its functionality to support **multiple languages** could help bridge the gap for non-English speaking users. This would enhance the accessibility of the platform and allow users from diverse linguistic backgrounds to access relevant guest speakers in their native languages.
- **Collaborative Learning Features:** Moving beyond speaker recommendations, InsightEd could integrate **collaborative learning features**, such as discussion forums or Q&A sessions with speakers, to foster greater interaction between experts and learners. This would enhance the educational experience by providing opportunities for real-time engagement, deeper understanding, and personalized learning.
- **Virtual and Hybrid Events Integration:** As the world continues to embrace virtual and hybrid learning environments, integrating features that allow for **virtual and hybrid guest lectures** could significantly enhance InsightEd's value proposition. By providing seamless integration with virtual platforms, such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams, InsightEd could enable the hosting of live sessions, recording of events for future reference, and interactive tools that support engagement during virtual talks.
- In conclusion, the future of InsightEd holds tremendous potential for innovation and growth. By incorporating advanced technologies like NLP, machine learning feedback loops, and multi-language support, and by expanding the platform's range of data sources and collaborative features, InsightEd can continue to provide personalized, impactful learning experiences for users worldwide. As the platform evolves, it will undoubtedly play a leading role in reshaping the way guest lectures and professional development events are organized and delivered in the future.

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