

Machine Learning

# Recommender Systems

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## Problem formulation

## Example: Predicting movie ratings

→ User rates movies using ~~one to five stars~~  
~~zero~~

Movie	Alice (1)	Bob (2)	Carol (3)	Dave (4)
Love at last	5	5	0	6
Romance forever	5	?	0	0
Cute puppies of love	?	4	0	?
Nonstop car chases	5	0	5	4
Swords vs. karate	0	0	?	?

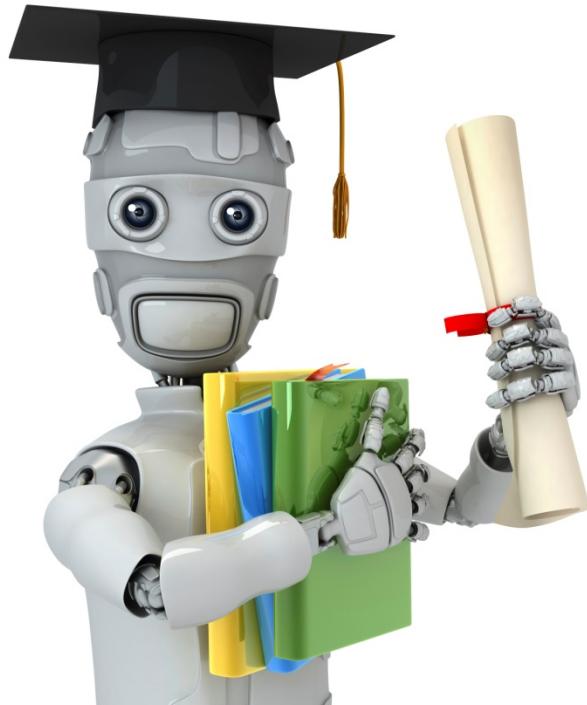
$$n_u = 4$$

$$n_m = 5$$



→  $n_u$  = no. users  
→  $n_m$  = no. movies  
 $r(i, j) = 1$  if user  $j$  has rated movie  $i$   
 $y^{(i,j)}$  = rating given by user  $j$  to movie  $i$   
(defined only if  $r(i, j) = 1$ )

$$0, \dots, 5$$



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# Recommender Systems

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Content-based  
recommendations

## Content-based recommender systems

Movie	Alice (1)	Bob (2)	Carol (3)	Dave (4)	$n_u = 4, n_m = 5$	$x_0 = 1$	$x^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0.9 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$
Love at last	1	5	5	0	0		
Romance forever	2	5	?	?	0		
Cute puppies of love	3	?	4	0	?		
Nonstop car chases	4	0	0	5	4		
Swords vs. karate	5	0	0	5	?		

Diagram illustrating the feature vectors for each movie:

- Love at last:  $x^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0.9 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$
- Romance forever:  $x^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0.9 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$
- Cute puppies of love:  $x^{(3)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0.9 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$
- Nonstop car chases:  $x^{(4)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0.9 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$
- Swords vs. karate:  $x^{(5)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0.9 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$n=2$

For each user  $j$ , learn a parameter  $\theta^{(j)} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . Predict user  $j$  as rating movie  $(\theta^{(j)})^T x^{(i)}$  stars.

$$x^{(3)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0.9 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \leftrightarrow \theta^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 5 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(\theta^{(1)})^T x^{(3)} = 5 \times 0.9 = 4.5$$

## Problem formulation

- $r(i, j) = 1$  if user  $j$  has rated movie  $i$  (0 otherwise)
- $y^{(i,j)}$  = rating by user  $j$  on movie  $i$  (if defined)
- $\theta^{(j)}$  = parameter vector for user  $j$
- $x^{(i)}$  = feature vector for movie  $i$
- For user  $j$ , movie  $i$ , predicted rating:  $(\theta^{(j)})^T(x^{(i)})$
- $m^{(j)}$  = no. of movies rated by user  $j$

To learn  $\theta^{(j)}$ :

$$\min_{\theta^{(j)}} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i : r(i,j)=1} \left( (\theta^{(j)})^T (x^{(i)}) - y^{(i,j)} \right)^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n (\theta_k^{(j)})^2$$

$$\theta^{(j)} \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$$

## Optimization objective:

To learn  $\theta^{(j)}$  (parameter for user  $j$ ):

$$\rightarrow \min_{\theta^{(j)}} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i:r(i,j)=1} \left( (\theta^{(j)})^T x^{(i)} - y^{(i,j)} \right)^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n (\theta_k^{(j)})^2$$

To learn  $\theta^{(1)}$ ,  $\theta^{(2)}$ , ...,  $\theta^{(n_u)}$ :

$$\min_{\theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(n_u)}} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n_u} \sum_{i:r(i,j)=1} \left( (\theta^{(j)})^T x^{(i)} - y^{(i,j)} \right)^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n_u} \sum_{k=1}^n (\theta_k^{(j)})^2$$

$\Theta^{(1)}, \dots, \Theta^{(n_u)}$

## Optimization algorithm:

$$\min_{\theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(n_u)}} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n_u} \sum_{i:r(i,j)=1} \left( (\theta^{(j)})^T x^{(i)} - y^{(i,j)} \right)^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n_u} \sum_{k=1}^n (\theta_k^{(j)})^2$$

$J(\theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(n_u)})$

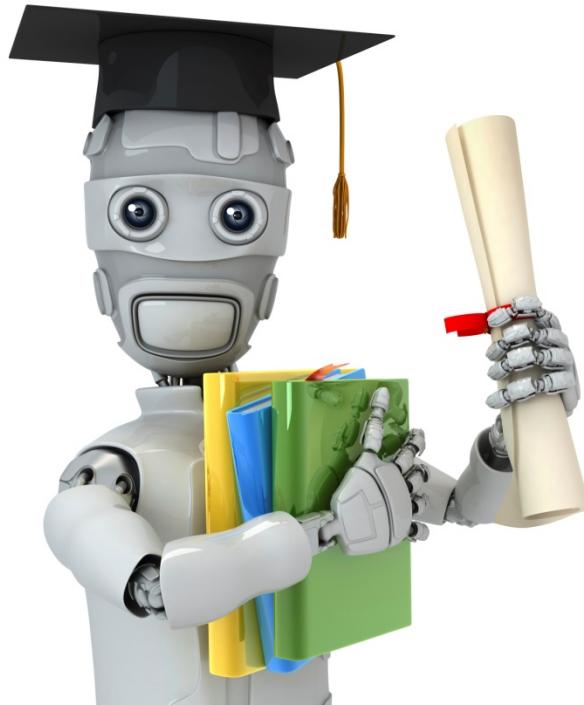
Gradient descent update:

$$\theta_k^{(j)} := \theta_k^{(j)} - \alpha \sum_{i:r(i,j)=1} ((\theta^{(j)})^T x^{(i)} - y^{(i,j)}) x_k^{(i)} \quad (\text{for } k = 0)$$

$$\theta_k^{(j)} := \theta_k^{(j)} - \alpha \left( \sum_{i:r(i,j)=1} ((\theta^{(j)})^T x^{(i)} - y^{(i,j)}) x_k^{(i)} + \lambda \theta_k^{(j)} \right) \quad (\text{for } k \neq 0)$$

~~$m^{(j)}$~~

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_k^{(j)}} J(\theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(n_u)})$$



Machine Learning

# Recommender Systems

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## Collaborative filtering

# Problem motivation

Movie	Alice (1)	Bob (2)	Carol (3)	Dave (4)	$x_1$ (romance)	$x_2$ (action)
Love at last	5	5	0	0	0.9	0
Romance forever	5	?	?	0	1.0	0.01
Cute puppies of love	?	4	0	?	0.99	0
Nonstop car chases	0	0	5	4	0.1	1.0
Swords vs. karate	0	0	5	?	0	0.9



# Problem motivation

$x^{(1)}$

Movie	Alice (1)	Bob (2)	Carol (3)	Dave (4)	$x_1$ (romance)	$x_2$ (action)	$x_o = 1$
<del>Love at last</del>	5	5	0	0	1.0	0.0	
Romance forever	5	?	?	0	?	?	
Cute puppies of love	?	4	0	?	?	?	
Nonstop car chases	0	0	5	4	?	?	
Swords vs. karate	0	0	5	?	?	?	

$x^{(2)}$

$\theta^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 5 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \theta^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 5 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \theta^{(3)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}, \theta^{(4)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$

$\theta^{(j)}$

$(\theta^{(1)})^T x^{(1)} \approx 5$

$(\theta^{(2)})^T x^{(1)} \approx 5$

$(\theta^{(3)})^T x^{(1)} \approx 0$

$(\theta^{(4)})^T x^{(1)} \approx 0$

$x^N = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1.0 \\ ? \\ ? \\ ? \\ ? \end{bmatrix}$

$x^{(1)}$

Andrew Ng

# Optimization algorithm

Given  $\theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(n_u)}$ , to learn  $x^{(i)}$ :

$$\min_{x^{(i)}} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j:r(i,j)=1} ((\theta^{(j)})^T x^{(i)} - y^{(i,j)})^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n (x_k^{(i)})^2$$

Given  $\theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(n_u)}$ , to learn  $x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n_m)}$ :

$$\min_{x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n_m)}} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n_m} \sum_{j:r(i,j)=1} ((\theta^{(j)})^T x^{(i)} - y^{(i,j)})^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n_m} \sum_{k=1}^n (x_k^{(i)})^2$$

# Collaborative filtering

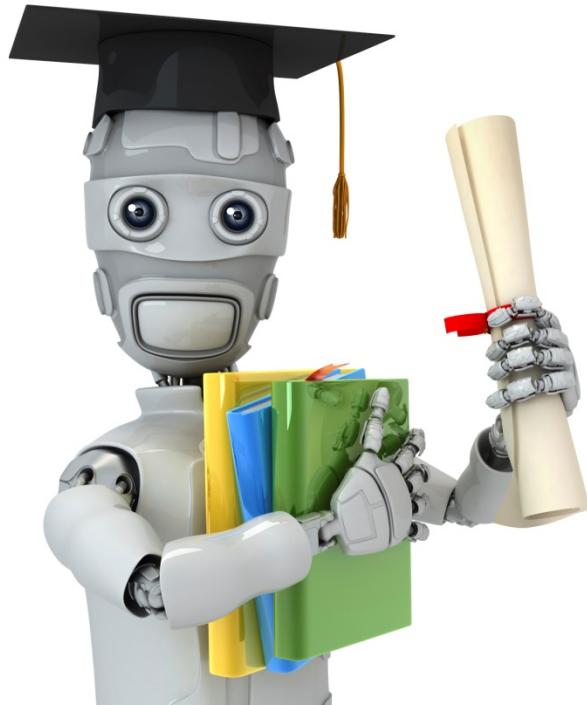
Given  $x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n_m)}$  (and movie ratings),  
can estimate  $\theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(n_u)}$

$$\begin{matrix} r^{(i,j)} \\ y^{(i,j)} \end{matrix}$$



Given  $\theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(n_u)}$ ,  
can estimate  $x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n_m)}$

Guess  $\Theta \rightarrow x \rightarrow \Theta \rightarrow x \rightarrow \Theta \rightarrow x \rightarrow \dots$



Machine Learning

# Recommender Systems

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Collaborative  
filtering algorithm

## Collaborative filtering optimization objective

Given  $x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n_m)}$ , estimate  $\theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(n_u)}$ :

$$\min_{\theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(n_u)}} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n_u} \sum_{i:r(i,j)=1} ((\theta^{(j)})^T x^{(i)} - y^{(i,j)})^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n_u} \sum_{k=1}^n (\theta_k^{(j)})^2$$

$$(i,j) : r(i,j) = 1$$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$\theta \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$x_1 = 1$$

Given  $\theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(n_u)}$ , estimate  $x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n_m)}$ :

$$\min_{x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n_m)}} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n_m} \sum_{j:r(i,j)=1} ((\theta^{(j)})^T x^{(i)} - y^{(i,j)})^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n_m} \sum_{k=1}^n (x_k^{(i)})^2$$

Minimizing  $x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n_m)}$  and  $\theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(n_u)}$  simultaneously:

$$J(x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n_m)}, \theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(n_u)}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(i,j):r(i,j)=1} ((\theta^{(j)})^T x^{(i)} - y^{(i,j)})^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n_m} \sum_{k=1}^n (x_k^{(i)})^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n_u} \sum_{k=1}^n (\theta_k^{(j)})^2$$

$$\min_{x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n_m)}, \theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(n_u)}} J(x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n_m)}, \theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(n_u)})$$



## Collaborative filtering algorithm

~~$x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^n$~~

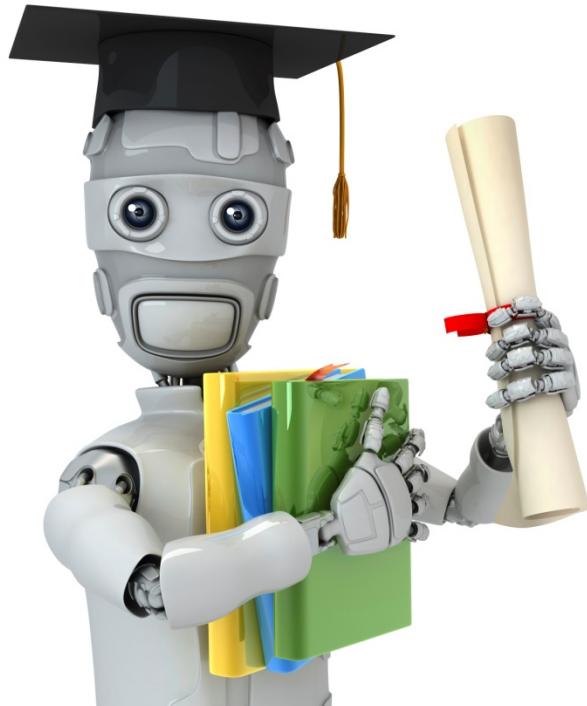
- 1. Initialize  $x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n_m)}, \theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(n_u)}$  to small random values.
- 2. Minimize  $J(x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n_m)}, \theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(n_u)})$  using gradient descent (or an advanced optimization algorithm). E.g. for every  $j = 1, \dots, n_u, i = 1, \dots, n_m$  :

$$x_k^{(i)} := x_k^{(i)} - \alpha \left( \sum_{j:r(i,j)=1} ((\theta^{(j)})^T x^{(i)} - y^{(i,j)}) \theta_k^{(j)} + \lambda x_k^{(i)} \right)$$
$$\theta_k^{(j)} := \theta_k^{(j)} - \alpha \left( \sum_{i:r(i,j)=1} ((\theta^{(j)})^T x^{(i)} - y^{(i,j)}) x_k^{(i)} + \lambda \theta_k^{(j)} \right)$$

$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_k^{(i)}} J(\dots)$

- 3. For a user with parameters  $\underline{\theta}$  and a movie with (learned) features  $\underline{x}$ , predict a star rating of  $\underline{\theta}^T \underline{x}$ .

$$(\underline{\theta}^{(i)})^T (\underline{x}^{(i)})$$



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# Recommender Systems

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Vectorization:  
Low rank matrix  
factorization

# Collaborative filtering

$$n_m = 5$$

$$n_u = 4$$

Movie	Alice (1)	Bob (2)	Carol (3)	Dave (4)
Love at last	5	5	0	0
Romance forever	5	?	?	0
Cute puppies of love	?	4	0	?
Nonstop car chases	0	0	5	4
Swords vs. karate	0	0	5	?

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & ? & ? & 0 \\ ? & 4 & 0 & ? \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



$y^{(i,j)}$

## Collaborative filtering

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & ? & ? & 0 \\ ? & 4 & 0 & ? \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{x} \Theta^T \leftarrow (\Theta^{(1)})^T (x^{(1)})$$

Predicted ratings:

$$\begin{bmatrix} (\theta^{(1)})^T (x^{(1)}) \\ (\theta^{(1)})^T (x^{(2)}) \\ \vdots \\ (\theta^{(1)})^T (x^{(n_m)}) \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} (\theta^{(2)})^T (x^{(1)}) \\ (\theta^{(2)})^T (x^{(2)}) \\ \vdots \\ (\theta^{(2)})^T (x^{(n_m)}) \end{bmatrix} \quad \dots \quad \begin{bmatrix} (\theta^{(n_u)})^T (x^{(1)}) \\ (\theta^{(n_u)})^T (x^{(2)}) \\ \vdots \\ (\theta^{(n_u)})^T (x^{(n_m)}) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} -(x^{(1)})^T \\ -(x^{(2)})^T \\ \vdots \\ -(x^{(n_m)})^T \end{bmatrix} \quad \Theta = \begin{bmatrix} -(\Theta^{(1)})^T \\ -(\Theta^{(2)})^T \\ \vdots \\ -(\Theta^{(n_u)})^T \end{bmatrix}$$

→ Low rank matrix factorization

## Finding related movies

For each product  $i$ , we learn a feature vector  $\underline{x}^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

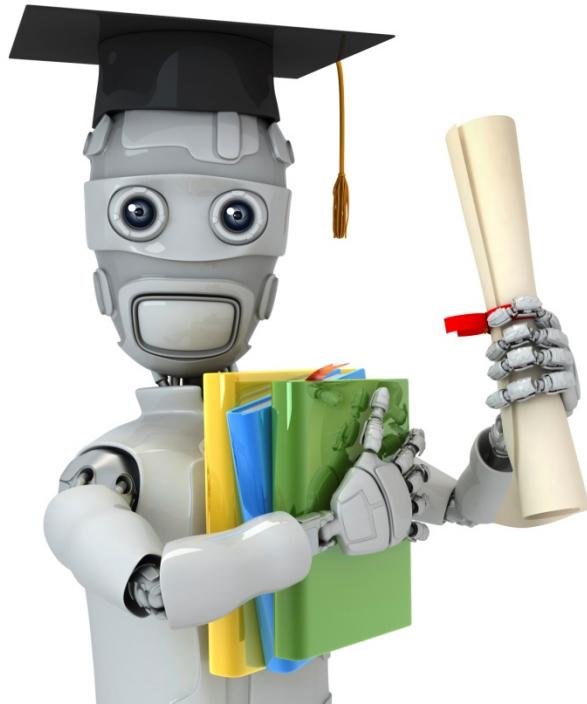
$\rightarrow x_1 = \text{romance}$ ,  $x_2 = \text{action}$ ,  $x_3 = \text{comedy}$ ,  $x_4 = \dots$

How to find movies  $j$  related to movie  $i$ ?

small  $\|x^{(i)} - x^{(j)}\|$   $\rightarrow$  movie  $j$  and  $i$  are "similar"

5 most similar movies to movie  $i$ :

Find the 5 movies  $j$  with the smallest  $\|x^{(i)} - x^{(j)}\|$ .



Machine Learning

# Recommender Systems

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Implementational  
detail: Mean  
normalization

# Users who have not rated any movies

Movie	Alice (1)	Bob (2)	Carol (3)	Dave (4)	Eve (5)
Love at last	5	5	0	0	?
Romance forever	5	?	?	0	?
Cute puppies of love	?	4	0	?	?
Nonstop car chases	0	0	5	4	?
Swords vs. karate	0	0	5	?	?

↓

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 5 & 0 & 0 & ? \\ 5 & ? & ? & 0 & ? \\ ? & 4 & 0 & ? & ? \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 4 & ? \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 0 & ? \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\min_{\substack{x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n_m)} \\ \theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(n_u)}}} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(i,j): r(i,j)=1} ((\theta^{(j)})^T x^{(i)} - y^{(i,j)})^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n_m} \sum_{k=1}^n (x_k^{(i)})^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n_u} \sum_{k=1}^n (\theta_k^{(j)})^2$$

$n=2$

$$\underline{\Theta}^{(s)} \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$\underline{\Theta}^{(s)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{\lambda}{2} [(\underline{\Theta}_1^{(s)})^2 + (\underline{\Theta}_2^{(s)})^2] \leftarrow$$

$$(\underline{\Theta}^{(s)})^T \underline{x}^{(i)} = 0$$

## Mean Normalization:

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} \rightarrow & 5 & 5 & 0 & 0 & ? & -2.5 \\ \rightarrow & 5 & ? & ? & 0 & ? & -2.5 \\ Y = & ? & 4 & 0 & ? & ? & -2 \\ \rightarrow & 0 & 0 & 5 & 4 & ? & \vdots \\ \rightarrow & 0 & 0 & 5 & 0 & ? & \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mu = \begin{bmatrix} \rightarrow & 2.5 \\ \rightarrow & 2.5 \\ \rightarrow & 2 \\ \rightarrow & 2.25 \\ \rightarrow & 1.25 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \underline{Y} =$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \circled{2.5} & \circled{2.5} & \circled{-2.5} & \circled{-2.5} & ? \\ 2.5 & ? & ? & -2.5 & ? \\ ? & 2 & -2 & ? & ? \\ -2.25 & -2.25 & 2.75 & 1.75 & ? \\ -1.25 & -1.25 & 3.75 & -1.25 & ? \end{bmatrix}$$

For user  $j$ , on movie  $i$  predict:

$$\rightarrow (\underline{\theta}^{(s)})^T (\underline{x}^{(i)}) + \underline{\mu_i}$$

$\downarrow$   
learn  $\underline{\theta}^{(s)}, \underline{x}^{(i)}$

User 5 (Eve):

$$\underline{\theta}^{(s)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\underbrace{(\underline{\theta}^{(s)})^T (\underline{x}^{(i)})}_{\sim 0} + \boxed{\underline{\mu_i}}$$