# Commentary on See What You Want to See: Visual User-Driven Approach for Hybrid Recommendation

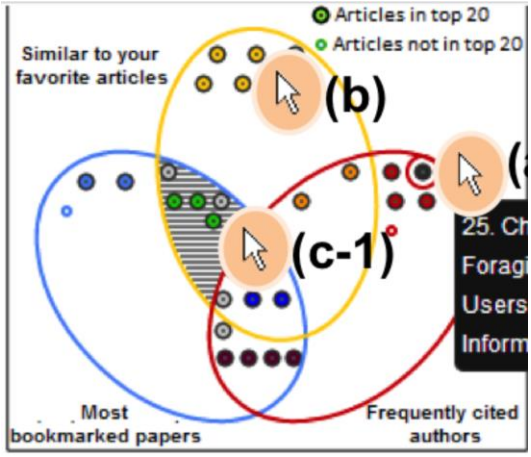
## The Study

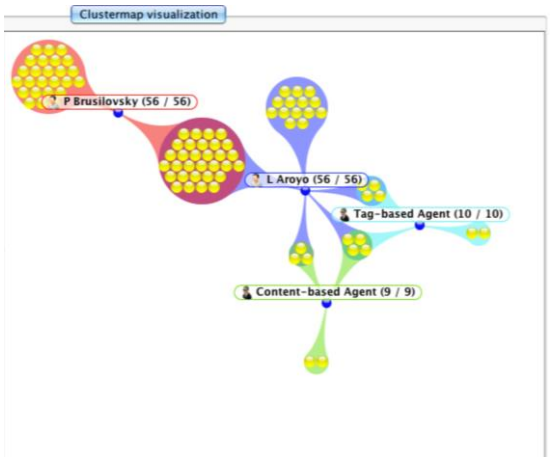
This article was written by our beloved professor Denis Parra (PUC Chile), Peter Brusilovsky (University of Pittsburg) and Christoph Trattner (Know-Center). It presents an interface that enables users to control how much decision power a recommender algorithm has in a multi-recommender system of scientific conference articles. It also allows for a better user-centred understanding of the recommendations, explicitly showing the contributions of each recommender.

## Commentary

I have several observations and questions about the study's proposed *SetFusion* interface:

1. Can the user always understand the underlying recommender sources? It does not appear to be sufficiently straightforward, especially for conferences of other areas or other domains, like music recommendation to a wide variety of non-experts.
2. How are the different recommendation methods combined? What are the weights? It is clear to me that the weights do not sum up to one, but what does changing them do? I mean, how does giving more importance to one system affect the recommendations? Does the list begin to resemble the list recommended by one of the systems when the corresponding weight is increased? How much can a weight be increased?
3. Is a Venn diagram better than a cluster map for this task? What happens if many different recommenders were used? Would it not clutter the visualization? Would the cluster map handle this clutter better? Below we can see the studies' proposed Venn diagram visualization of the papers (left) and the alternative cluster map visualization offered previously by two of the authors (right). It is not clear to me which one is better, and the paper does not seem to justify the change to a Venn diagram.




4. Even though it is clear that the button "Update Recommendation List" must be clicked for the list to update according to the new weights, it would be better (perhaps as future work) to automatically perform this update upon the slider movement to improve user experience.

The questions and observations posed above are meant to be honest critique and are entirely subjective, but serve as topics of constructive discussion over *SetFusion*.

As a final thought, I would appreciate a method like this one to be implemented in popular platforms that use recommender systems, such as Netflix, Amazon or Spotify since I am often not content with my recommendations and I have many times found myself wishing to have some control over these recommendations to improve them.