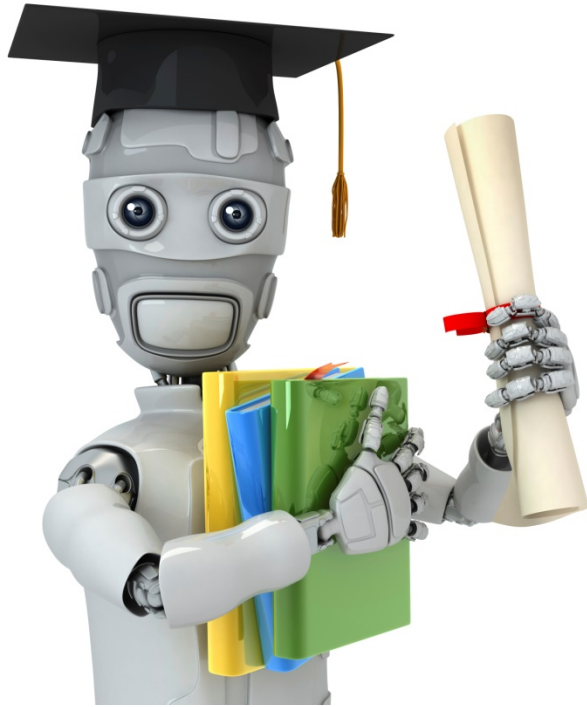


Amazon, ebay, netflix, ... etc  
Little attention in Academia but used very often in industry!



Machine Learning

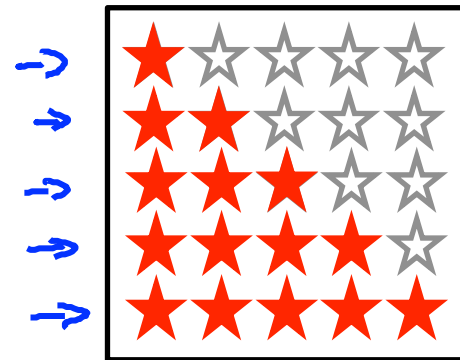
# Recommender Systems

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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)
romantic movies				
Love at last	5	5	0	0
Romance forever	5	?	?	0
Cute puppies of love	?	4	0	?
action movies				
Nonstop car chases	0	0	5	4
Swords vs. karate	0	0	5	?

$$n_u = 4$$

$$n_m = 5$$

0, ..., 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  $r(i, j) = 1$ )



Machine Learning

# Recommender Systems

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Content-based  
recommendations

1st approach to building a recommender system

we have some ratings from users (content) available; content-based.



## 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:  $(\theta^{(j)})^T (x^{(i)})$

linear regression problem

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

→  $m^{(j)}$  = no. of movies rated by user  $j$

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

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

## 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:

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

✓ objective

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

Gradient descent update:

Gradient descent algorithm

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

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

~~$\frac{1}{m^{(j)}}$~~

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



Machine Learning

# Recommender Systems



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Collaborative  
filtering

Another recommender algorithm



# Problem motivation

Movie	Alice (1)	Bob (2)	Carol (3)	Dave (4)	 $x_1$	 $x_2$
					(romance)	(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

Now, we do not have values for these features

# Problem motivation

Movie	Alice (1) $\theta^{(1)}$	Bob (2) $\theta^{(2)}$	Carol (3) $\theta^{(3)}$	Dave (4) $\theta^{(4)}$	$x_1$ (romance)	$x_2$ (action)
$x^{(1)}$ Love at last	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	?	?	?

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

$x^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.0 \\ 0.0 \end{bmatrix}$   
 $\theta^{(1)T} x^{(1)} \approx 5$   
 $\theta^{(2)T} x^{(1)} \approx 5$   
 $\theta^{(3)T} x^{(1)} \approx 0$   
 $\theta^{(4)T} x^{(1)} \approx 0$

# Optimization algorithm

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

feature for one specific movie

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

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

features for all movies

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

# Collaborative filtering

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

$\sigma^{(i,j)}$   
 $y^{(i,j)}$

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

initial guess of parameters ↗

can actually converge to a parameter set theta ↗



kind like the chicken and egg problem!



Machine Learning

# Recommender Systems

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Collaborative  
filtering algorithm

# Collaborative filtering optimization objective

use this formalism, we do not need to hard code of a feature  $x_0=1$ .

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

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

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

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

~~$$x \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$$~~
~~$$x_0 = 1$$~~

$$\frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n_u} \sum_{k=1}^n (\theta_k^{(j)})^2$$

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

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

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

simultaneously:

combine two objective together so that we do not need to go back and forth!!!

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

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

$$\theta \rightarrow x \rightarrow \theta \rightarrow x \rightarrow \dots$$

# Collaborative filtering algorithm

- 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  $j = 1, \dots, n_u, i = 1, \dots, n_m$  :

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

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

Handwritten notes:  $\frac{\partial J}{\partial x_k^{(i)}}$  and  $\frac{\partial J}{\partial \theta_k^{(j)}}$  with arrows pointing to the respective equations.

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

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



Machine Learning

# Recommender Systems

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Vectorization:  
Low rank matrix  
factorization

Vectorization implementation of this algorithm!



# Collaborative filtering

Movie	<small>theta1</small> Alice (1)	<small>theta2, ...</small> 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	?



$$n_m = 5 \text{ movies}$$

$$n_u = 4 \text{ users}$$

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

$y^{(i,j)}$   
movie i by user j

# Collaborative filtering

$$\underline{X \odot L}^T \leftarrow \star$$

$$(\Theta^{(u)})^T (x^{(i)})$$

$$(i,j) \rightarrow$$

Predicted ratings:

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

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

$$\underline{X} = \begin{bmatrix} -(x^{(1)})^T \\ -(x^{(2)})^T \\ \vdots \\ -(x^{(n_m)})^T \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\underline{L} = \begin{bmatrix} -(\Theta^{(1)})^T \\ -(\Theta^{(2)})^T \\ \vdots \\ -(\Theta^{(n_u)})^T \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \text{low rank!}$$

Low rank matrix factorization

## Finding related movies

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

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

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

one last implementation detail

# Users who have not rated any movies

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



mean normalization fixes this problem!

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

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

$$n=2$$

$$\underline{\theta}^{(5)} \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$\underline{\theta}^{(5)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

no term of theta5

$$(\underline{\theta}^{(5)})^T \underline{x}^{(i)} = 0$$

$$\frac{\lambda}{2} [(\theta_1^{(5)})^2 + (\theta_2^{(5)})^2] \leftarrow$$

# Mean Normalization:

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

avg rating of all movies

$$\mu = \begin{bmatrix} 2.5 \\ 2.5 \\ 2 \\ 2.25 \\ 1.25 \end{bmatrix}$$

= 5 - 2.5

$$\rightarrow \underline{Y} = \begin{bmatrix} 2.5 & 2.5 & -2.5 & -2.5 & ? \\ 2.5 & ? & ? & -2.5 & ? \\ ? & 2 & -2 & ? & ? \\ -2.25 & -2.25 & 2.75 & 1.75 & ? \\ -1.25 & -1.25 & 3.75 & -1.25 & ? \end{bmatrix}$$

Mean normalization!

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

$$\rightarrow (\Theta^{(j)})^T (x^{(i)}) + \mu_i$$

learn  $\underline{\Theta}^{(j)}, \underline{x}^{(i)}$

User 5 (Eve):

$$\underline{\Theta}^{(5)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

output the avg movie rating

$$\underbrace{(\Theta^{(5)})^T (x^{(i)})}_{= 0} + \boxed{\mu_i}$$