Tribhuvan University

Orchid International College

A Final Year Project Report

On

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM

USING COLLABORATIVE FILTERING

Under the Supervision of

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Submitted To:

Orchid International College

In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Bachelor Degree in Computer Science and Information Technology

Submitted By:

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April, 2023

SUPERVISOR'S RECOMMENDATION

I hereby recommend that the report prepared under my supervision by Rajat Budhathoki (20820/075), Bipin Chaudhary (20800/075), Abhinna Ojha (20788/075) entitled "Electric Vehicle Charging Station Recommendation System using Collaborative Filtering" in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of B.Sc. in Computer Science and Information Technology be processed for evaluation.

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CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

This is to certify that this project prepared by Rajat Budhathoki (20820/075), Bipin Chaudhary (20800/075), and Abhinna Ojha (20788/075) entitled "Electric Vehicle Charging Station Recommendation System using Collaborative Filtering" in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of B.Sc. in Computer Science and Information Technology has been well studied. In our opinion, it is satisfactory in the scope and quality as a project for the required degree.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ABSTRACT

As charging an EV is not as fast and only some charging stations are equipped with fast charging port, EV drivers and owners face a dilemma on whether a certain location even has a charging station or not, and is the charging station is suitable for them or not. This system aims to provide users a web-based platform that can recommend the potentially suitable charging station to them. The system will be developed in Laravel, utilising its capabilities for potent web development and efficient database management. The proposed system provides personalized recommendations to users based on their charging needs and preferences, making it easier for them to find and use charging stations. The results of our evaluation demonstrate the effectiveness and efficiency of the proposed system in recommending charging stations to users.

Keywords: *Electric Vehicle (EV), Charging Station, Recommendation System, Cosine Similarity, Weighted Average, Laravel*

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AC   Alternating Current

AI   Artificial Intelligence

CF   Collaborative Filtering

CSS   Cascading Style Sheets

DC   Direct Current

EV   Electric Vehicle

EVCS   Electric Vehicle Charging Station

HTML   Hyper Text Markup Language

ICE   Internal Combustion Engine

IDE   Integrated Development Environment

JS   JavaScript

L-ION   Lithium Ion

ML   Machine Learning

MVC   Model View Controller

ORM   Object Relational Mapping

PHP   Hyper Text Pre-processor

QA   Quality Assurance

SDLC   Software Development Life Cycle

UML   Unified Modelling Language

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Introduction

Electric vehicles, EVs, are gaining popularity in recent years. The reduction of taxes by various nations on EVs, the consideration of environment, and the ever-depleting petroleum resources has made EVs a possible vehicle in consideration for many drivers and the easier and cheaper availability of electricity further solidifies the case for the choice of EVs. Similarly, recommendation systems are also nowadays used on almost every walk of digital life. The increasing adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) has led to a growing demand for charging infrastructure. However, finding a charging station that is both conveniently located and available can be a challenge for EV drivers. The aim of this project is to address this challenge by providing a user-friendly and efficient solution for recommending charging stations. The system utilizes the technique of cosine similarity to recommend the most suitable electric vehicle charging stations in a specified location. The report will detail the design, implementation and evaluation of the system, as well as its overall performance and potential future improvements.

1.2. Problem Statement

The big problem of Electric Vehicles (EV), is charging. EV charging is not as easy as filling up fuel as in an internal combustion engine-based vehicle as it takes quite a significant time for the EV to be fully charged. So, picking an EV charging station can be a big personal preference-based choice and finding a right one can be a topic of choice. With the scarce availability of the EV charging stations, it can be very difficult to even look for an EV charging station let alone being recommended one that a person may like, trust, and ultimately prefer.

1.3. Objectives

- To create a web-based recommendation system that recommends EV charging stations in an area
- To implement item-item based collaborative filtering using cosine similarity and weighted average

1.4. Scope and Limitation

The project aims to build a system that can be used to provide ratings to various charging stations and receive recommendation of charging station in a user specified location.

The system will not detect the distance to the nearest amenities or detect the geo-code during insertion of charging station.

1.5. Development Methodology

The project is developed using incremental development approach. Incremental development is a method of building software where the system is broken down into small modules and built module-by-module. Incremental development was favoured over other approaches due to multitude of factors. The team is not very well skilled or trained and is on a constant learning process during the development process itself. This approach allowed so that the system can be developed in smaller modules and functions can be added over the course of development one by one. Similarly, the system could be developed such that the core requirements of the system could be developed first and then other add-ons could be developed as need be. Furthermore, due to the requirements being set and clear, it was easier to implement the system in incremental approach as client feedback was not a must have requirement for the project. All in all, as requirements are superior, the developers are still learning, and the prioritized requirements need to be developed first, the system is built using incremental approach as small modules.

1.6. Report Organisation

The report of the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Recommendation System is organised into six chapters.

Chapter 1 is the introductory chapter that encompasses the project introduction, the scope, limitation, and development methodology.

Chapter 2 is the background study and the literature review. This section encompasses the summary of the works done which are similar to the project in consideration. It is research-based analysis and summary of similar works or works that may be relevant to the project. This section summarises the works that have been taken as reference, guideline, or as an influence to the project.

Chapter 3 provides a detailed analysis of the system and the project as a whole. This section focuses on identifying the viability of the project and the requirement of the

system. This section ensures that the system is viable, the platform to be used is viable, and the project is doable.

Chapter 4 highlights the system and how is it to be developed. It is a study of how should the system be built, which approach is to be taken, and what algorithms are to be studied and implemented to ensure smooth and hassle-free development along with providing a system of proper quality.

Chapter 5 provides an outlook on how was the system actually developed and how was it handled. It provides summary on what tools were implemented and why, how was the algorithm implemented, and how was the database implemented. It also summarises the QA aspects of the project.

Finally, chapter 6 provides an insight about the system and the project and how can the system be further improved.

CHAPTER 2: BACKGROUND STUDY AND LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Background Study

Electric Vehicle is not a new concept. It has been a topic of discussion and research as an alternative fuel vehicle since the beginning of 21st century. With the breakthrough in research in recent years, and a global awareness of the adverse climatic effects due to fossil fuels, electric vehicles has been a prominent and upcoming field of research.

The biggest problem of the EV is the travel distance as the per charge range is significantly lower than the per tank range of ICE based vehicles. The other fuel system is the use of Hydrogen fuel, but the problematic storage of Hydrogen and Oxygen required for the fuel cell makes the process of fuel cell-based vehicles a challenging concept. Solar power can be used, but solar power produces inconsistent power and may be subject to higher cost due to the innate costs of the panels, maintenance, and repair. So, with careful consideration to all the possibilities, EVs with L-ION batteries and accessible charging stations seems to be the most likely future for the next few decades. Research in EVs have been prominent and research into ways to increase the range of EVs have been a topic of heavy interest. But, for now, it seems though that the availability of suitable EVCS is the better approach towards EV charging.

Furthermore, most of the EVCS recommendation system is based on technicalities. EV charging is treated as ICE vehicle fuelling and recommendations are based on technical parameters only. While technical parameters are important and effective, EV charging is more than just the technicalities. EV charging is not as quick and robust as ICE fuelling and the human aspect is mostly neglected by most researches and systems. While recommendation systems like that of movies is based on human preferences, the recommendation system of EVCS mostly does not consider potential human factors like what will they do during the downtime when their vehicle is charging and how can recommendation be made more human-centric.

2.2. Literature Review

Many prominent researches have been done on the recommendation systems and few of them are based on the electric vehicle charging station.

In a study on Electric Vehicles in Hyderabad, the Urooj and Annamma research on the EV taxies in Hyderabad, and how can the EVCS recommendation be beneficial to the EV taxies. The EV taxies were compared based on real and simulated recommendations with an accuracy of 94.7%, among which the accuracy of to-station state prediction is 92.2%, 96.8% for recharging, and 95.3% for operating. The comparison of real selections with predicted selections was obtained as 84.7% on integral recharge intention identification, including to-station state, and charging station selection [1].

Research in a similar system was conducted in 2021 by Zhang et al which discusses recommendation system of EVCS. The research focused on various parameters like charging request, charging wait time, charging price, and charging failure rate to recommend the most proper charging station with long term goals of minimising the charging wait time, charging price, and charging failure rate [2].

Aarthi and Prasath proposed an enhanced real-time charging station recommendation system for the EV charging station recommendation system for load-based taxis. The study suggested that EV taxis' higher time-cost at the charging stations is due to the EV taxi drivers rushing to the same EV charging stations during the same time-frame. The system also suggested the use of real-time recommendation system so that the taxi drivers can get real time suggestions so that they do not rush only to the charging stations they frequently use [3].

The study by Wang et al in Beijing in 2021 also proposed a similar recommendation system, albeit using federated learning. The research compared the model based on real data and that based on their model and concluded that the model was accurate by a factor of 0.92, 92% [4].

CHAPTER 3: SYSTEM ANALYSIS

3.1. Requirement Analysis

Requirements analysis is the process of obtaining what the client, user, or stakeholders expect from the system or software.

The functional requirements specify the core features and the expected behaviours of the system and is modelled using Data Flow Diagrams, UML diagrams, flowcharts, function modelling, and so on. The non-functional requirements are a set of specifications that describe the system's operation capabilities and constraints and attempt to improve its functionality.

3.1.1. Functional Requirements

The functional requirements specify the core expected behaviour of the system. It is a description of the service that the software must offer and describes a software system or its component. In this system some core functions that have been modelled sing the use-case diagram and use-case descriptions.

The core features of the system are to add and update charging stations by the admin, add and edit charging station ratings by the user, and get recommendation of charging station by user.

3.1.1.1. Use-case diagram
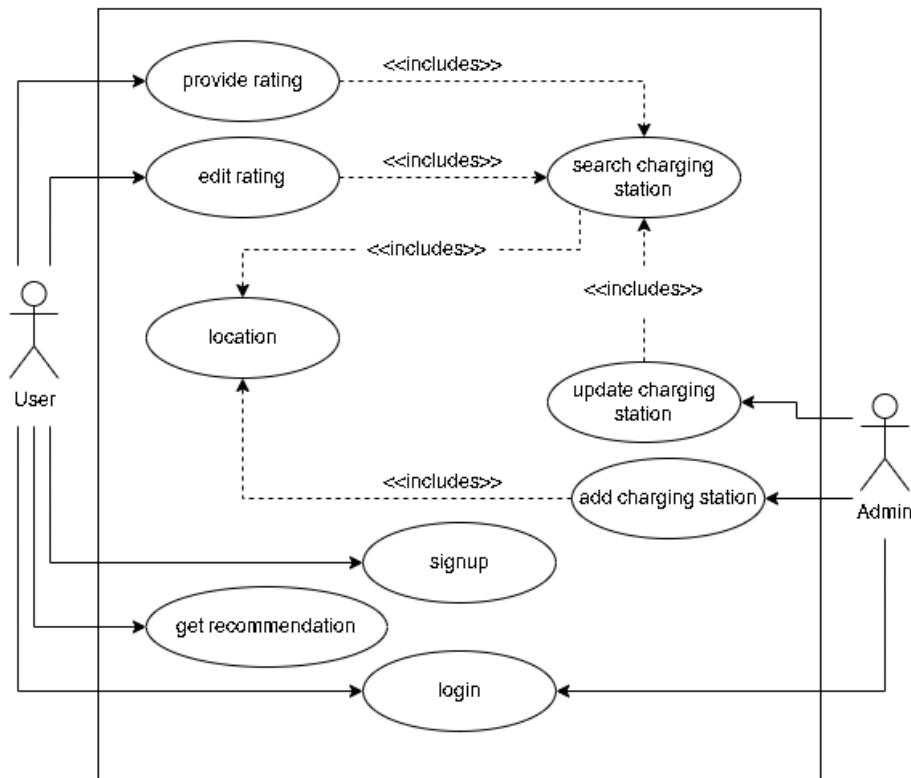
Figure 3.1: Use case of the System

3.1.1.2. Use-case descriptions

Table 3.1: Use case description of rating a charging station

Identifier	UCD1
Name, Description	Providing the rating to a charging station
Actors	User
Pre-condition	The location must be specified and charging station must be selected
Success scenario	Rating is inserted into the database Success message is displayed to user
Failure scenario	Rating is not inserted into the database and failure message is displayed to admin

Table 3.2: Use case description of adding a charging station

Identifier	UCD2
Name, Description	Adding a charging station
Actors	Admin
Pre-condition	The location must be specified
Success scenario	Charging station is inserted into the database Success message is displayed to admin
Failure scenario	Charging station is not inserted into the database and failure message is displayed to admin

Table 3.3: Use case description of updating a charging station

Identifier	UCD3
Name, Description	Updating a charging station
Actors	Admin
Pre-condition	The location must be specified and the charging station to update must be selected
Success scenario	Success message is displayed to admin Charging station is updated in database
Failure scenario	Charging station is not updated in database and message is displayed to admin

Table 3.4: Use case description of getting a charging station recommended

Identifier	UCD4
Name, Description	Get recommendation of charging station
Actors	User
Pre-condition	The location must be specified
Success scenario	Charging stations and their location is displayed to user if the charging station is available Message is displayed to user if the location has no charging station
Failure scenario	Charging station is not recommended as desired

3.1.2. Non-Functional Requirements

- Speed: It is used to determine how fast the system performs certain activities.

- Security: Only registered users can login to the system and provide ratings or get recommendations.

- Availability: The system will be available at all hours, every day of the year once deployed.

- Usability: The system should be easy to access, use, and understand by the users

3.2. Feasibility Study

3.2.1. Technical Feasibility

The dataset to train and test the recommendation system can be available from sources like NEA and Kaggle. Laravel framework would be used to build the recommendation system and the collaborative filtering technique with cosine similarity would be used for the recommendation algorithm. The next step would be to develop the recommendation system using the Laravel framework and the chosen algorithm. This would involve the implementation of various features such as user authentication, data management, and recommendation generation. The developed system would then be tested to ensure its functionality and performance. This would involve evaluating the system's accuracy and efficiency in generating recommendations, as well as user satisfaction with the system. Once the system has been tested and evaluated, it would be deployed for use by EV owners. This would involve the integration of the system with existing EV charging stations and the implementation of any necessary security measures.

All in all, the technical feasibility of this project is high as the Laravel framework is a robust and widely used platform for web development, and collaborative filtering with cosine similarity is a well-established recommendation algorithm. With the appropriate data and resources, the development, testing, and deployment of this system is achievable.

3.2.2. Operational Feasibility

The system will be able to recommend the EV charging station to the user in the specified location. This recommendation will be based on the ratings the user has provided to the EV charging stations that the user has already been to and rated. This solves the problem for the user to manually search the EV charging station and make a guess of whether the one they found may be one of their liking or not and whether they will be able to trust their expensive vehicles on the said charging station or not. Furthermore, having a system of authentication and authorisation will also help prevent fake ratings and make the system more reliable and robust.

3.2.3. Schedule Feasibility

EVCS Recommendation System

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Predecessors
1	**Planning and installation**	**40 hrs**	**Dec 25**	**Dec 30**	
2	Identification of available projects	5 hrs	Dec 25	Dec 25	
3	Identification and analysis of required resources	20 hrs	Dec 25	Dec 28	2
4	Feasibility study	10 hrs	Dec 25	Dec 27	2
5	Installation of required environment	15 hrs	Dec 28	Dec 30	4,3
6	**Designing Database**	**50 hrs**	**Dec 31**	**Jan 07**	**5**
7	Acquisition and study of dataset	30 hrs	Dec 31	Jan 04	5
8	Database Design	20 hrs	Jan 04	Jan 07	7
9	**Prototyping of web pages**	**65 hrs**	**Dec 31**	**Jan 09**	**5**
10	Low-fidelity prototyping	25 hrs	Dec 31	Jan 03	5
11	Resource collection	10 hrs	Jan 03	Jan 05	10
12	High-fidelity prototyping	30 hrs	Jan 05	Jan 09	11
13	**Front end development**	**75 hrs**	**Jan 09**	**Jan 20**	**12**
14	Page structuring	25 hrs	Jan 09	Jan 13	12
15	Page designing	25 hrs	Jan 13	Jan 17	14
16	Page interactivity	25 hrs	Jan 17	Jan 20	15
17	**Back end development**	**160 hrs**	**Jan 07**	**Jan 31**	**8**
18	Database development	40 hrs	Jan 07	Jan 13	8
19	Implementation of algorithms	120 hrs	Jan 13	Jan 31	18
20	**Integration and alpha-deployment**	**50 hrs**	**Jan 31**	**Feb 07**	**16,19**
21	Integration of front and back ends	50 hrs	Jan 31	Feb 07	16,19
22	Release of alpha version	0 hrs	Feb 07	Feb 07	21
23	**Testing**	**180 hrs**	**Feb 07**	**Mar 06**	**22**
24	Algorithm testing	100 hrs	Feb 07	Feb 22	22
25	System testing	80 hrs	Feb 22	Mar 06	22,24
26	**Release of final version**	**0 hrs**	**Mar 06**	**Mar 06**	**24,25**

Figure 3.2: Work breakdown structure
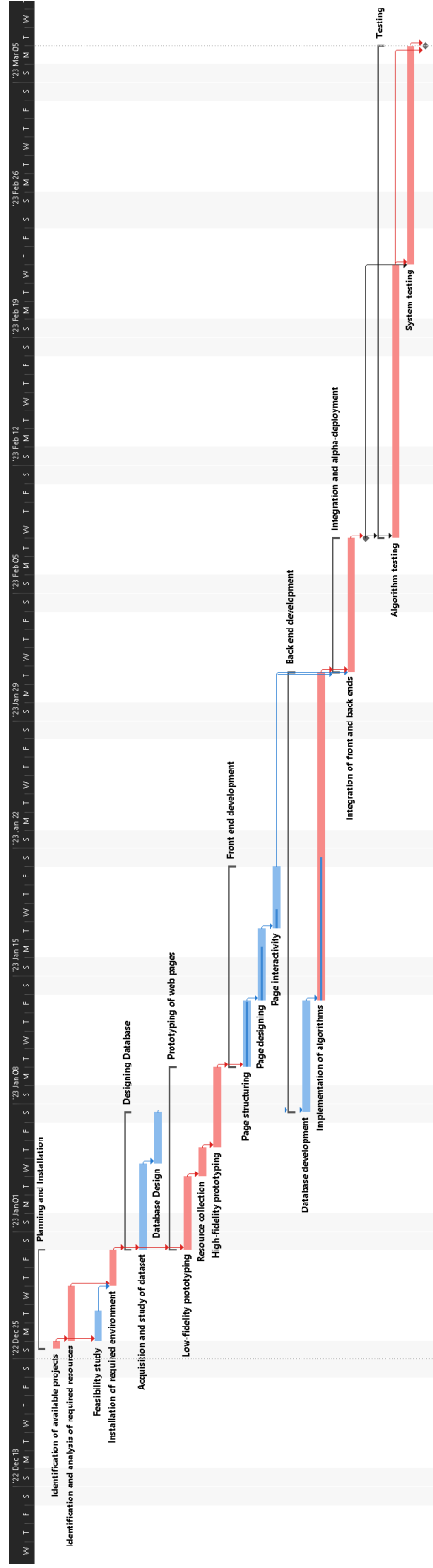
Figure 3.3: Gantt chart

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3.3. System Analysis

3.3.1. Class Diagram

User

+ id unsigned integer
+ name string
+ email string
+ password string
+ role integer

- login()
- signup()
- view_recommendations()

Rating

+ id unsigned integer
+ user unsigned integer
+ charging_station unsigned integer
+ rating integer

- provideRating(User, ChargingStation)
- updateRating(User, ChargingStation)

ChargingStation

+ id unsigned integer
+ name string
+ ward integer
+ metropolitan string
+ district string
+ province string

- addChargingStation()
- getChargingStation()
- updateChargingStation()

Similarity

+ id unsigned integer
+ charging_station_1 unsigned integer
+ charging_station_2 unsigned integer
+ similarity_score integer

- calculateSimilarity(ChargingStation, ChargingStation)
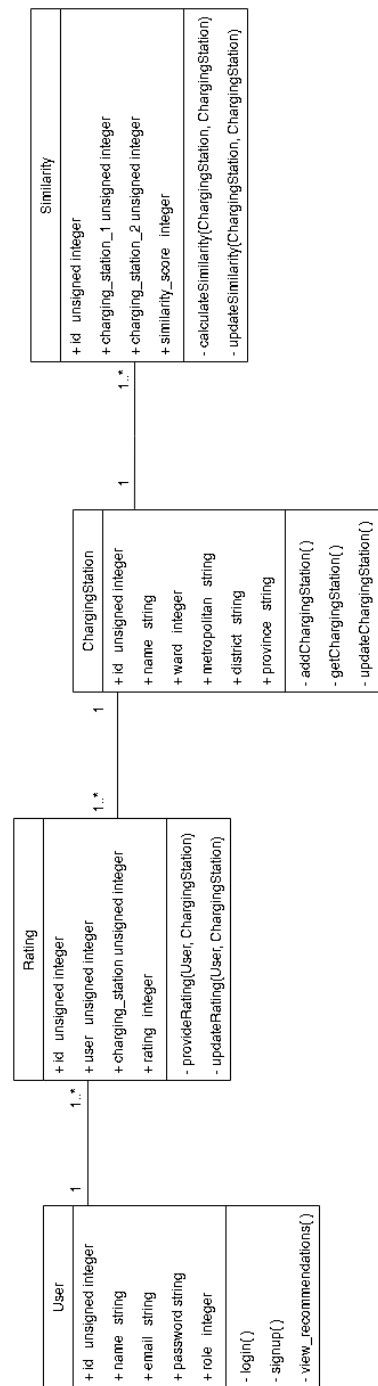- updateSimilarity(ChargingStation, ChargingStation)

Figure 3.4: Class diagram
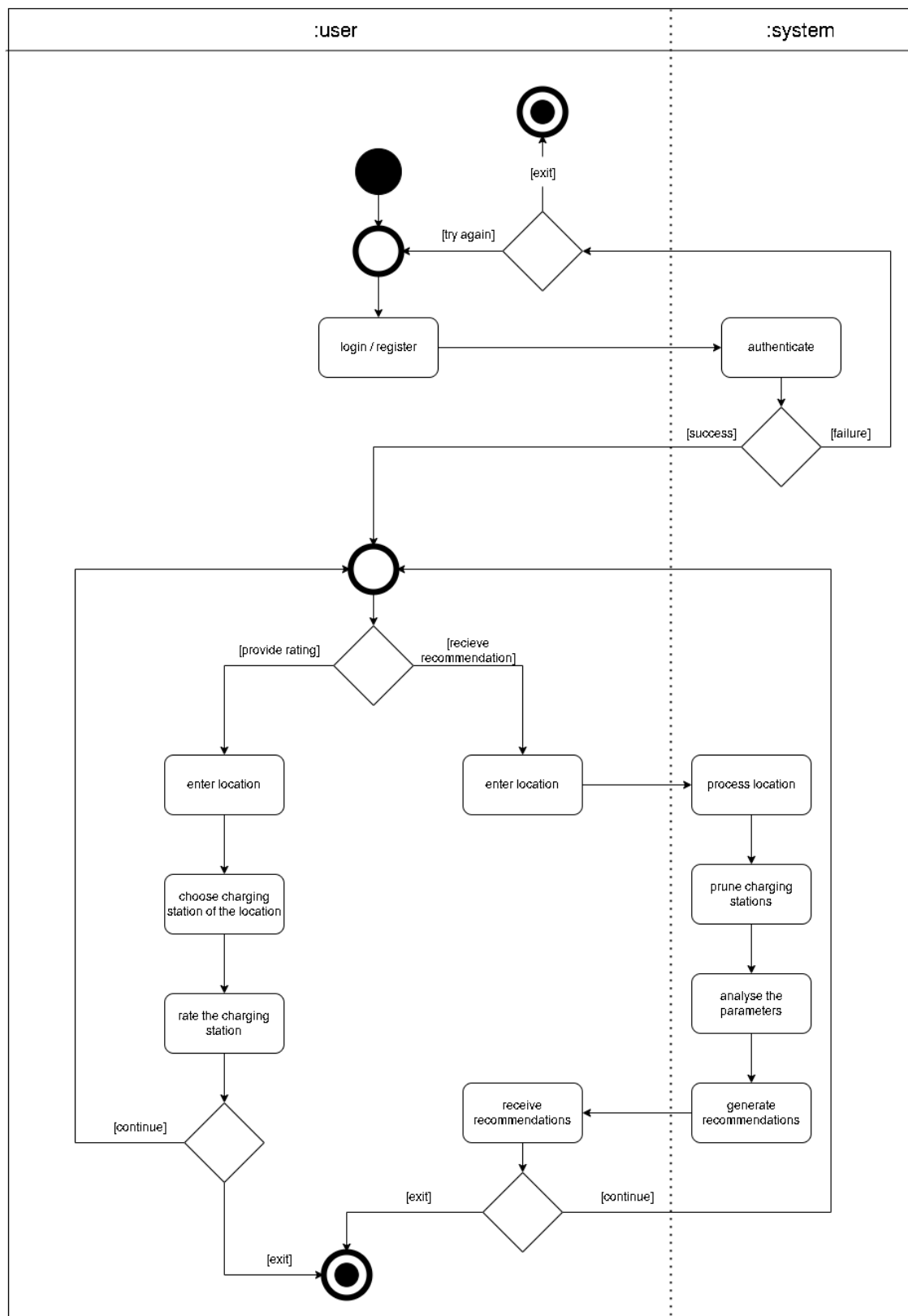
3.3.2. Activity Diagram

Figure 3.5: Activity diagram to provide rating or receive recommendation

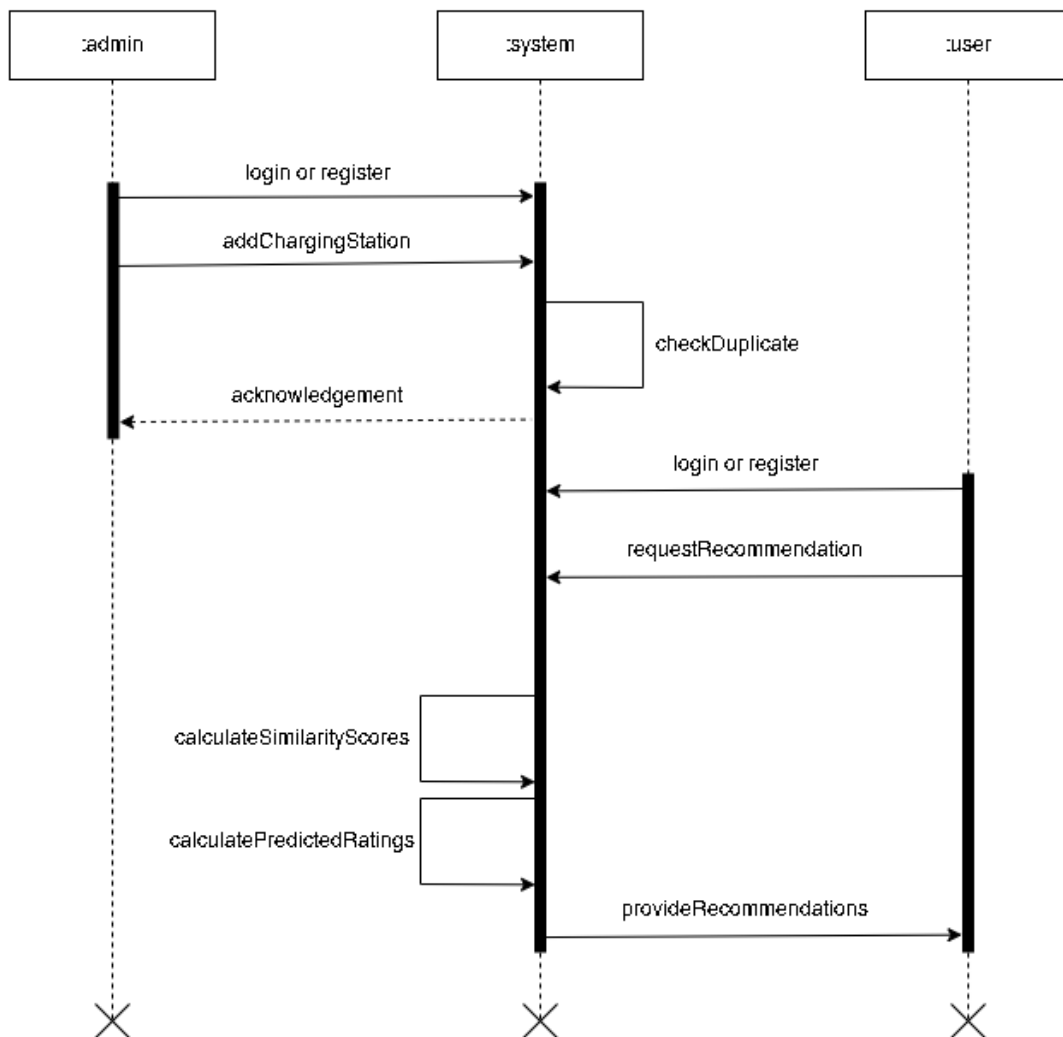### 3.3.3. Sequence Diagram

Figure 3.6: Sequence diagram to receive recommendation after adding a station

CHAPTER 4: SYSTEM DESIGN

4.1. Design

4.1.1. Model View Controller Architecture

The system is built following the Model View Controller, MVC, architecture. The model handles the data logic, database communication, and data on database. The controller contains the core business and implementation logic. It also acts as the intermediary between the model and view and helps render views via routes. The view renders the pages and acts as the presentation part of this system. As MVC is one of the most popular and efficient design architectures for web-based systems, we chose to use MVC architecture for this system.
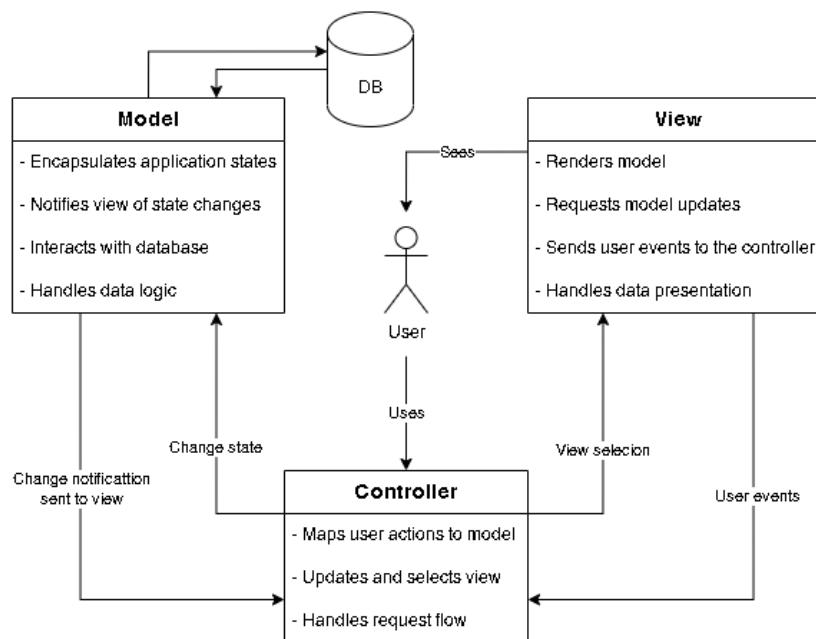

Figure 4.1: Model View Controller architecture

4.2. Study of Algorithms

Collaborative filtering is a technique to provide suggestions to the users based on their preferences and reviews. Collaborative filtering can broadly be implemented by two approaches; the user-based approach and the item-based approach. The user-based approach uses data from the various users to find similarities and then recommend while the item-based approach uses data from the various items to find similarities and then recommend.

Furthermore, collaborative filtering can be implemented using memory-based, model-based, hybrid, or deep learning methods. Memory-based approach uses similarity calculation and weighted average rating method. Model based approach uses model-based data mining and/or machine learning algorithms to compute and predict the missing ratings of items not rated by users. The hybrid approach combines the memory-based and the model-based CF algorithms. The hybrid approach overcomes the limitations of native Collaborative Filtering approaches and improve performance of the predictions. Deep learning technique is a recent method that uses neural and deep-learning techniques. While deep learning has been applied to many different scenarios, it is not effective when used in a simple collaborative recommendation scenario.

4.2.1. Item-based Collaborative Filtering

The system utilises an item based collaborative filtering algorithm. Rather than matching the user to other similar users, item based collaborative filtering matches each of the user's rated items to other similar items, then recommends those similar items as a recommendation list. Cosine similarity and Pearson correlation are the most commonly used method to calculate the similarity scores used for the collaborative filtering process.

4.2.2. Memory-based Approach

Memory-based approach calculates the similarity between two entities, and predicts the missing rating for the user by taking the weighted average of all the ratings provided by the user or provided to the item. Similarity measures like Pearson correlation and vector cosine-based similarity are used for this. Despite of its problems with sparse data, it is a highly effective method due to the results being explainable, method itself being easy to use, new data being easier to facilitate into the system, and having good scalability with co-related items.

4.2.3. Cosine Similarity

Cosine similarity measures the similarity by computing the Euclidean dot product between the two vectorial data. The cosine similarity calculation generates an outcome belonging to the interval [-1, 1]. The cosine of two non-zero vectors, X and Y, can be derived by using the formula:

$$X.Y = ||X||.||Y||.\cos\theta$$

If X and Y are two n-dimensional vectors, the cosine similarity, is represented using a dot product and magnitude as:

$$S_c(X,Y) = \cos(\theta) = \frac{X.Y}{||X||.||Y||} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i.Y_i}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} Y_i^2}.\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i^2}}$$

where X_i and Y_i are components or attributes of vector X and Y respectively.

4.2.4. Weighted Average

Weighted average is a computation of an average that takes into account the importance of various data in the set. Each data in the data set is multiplied by a factor or degree of importance, which is the weight, before the final calculation is made.

$$W = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i X_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i}$$

CHAPTER 5: IMPLEMENTATION

5.1. Tools Used

5.1.1. Development Tools

5.1.1.1. HTML and CSS

Both HTML and CSS is used this project to create the basic structure and the user interface components in the views.

5.1.1.2. JS along with jQuery

This project uses JS and jQuery to provide interactivity and visual appeal of the web pages as well as making asynchronous calls to the database.

5.1.1.3. PHP with Laravel

In his project PHP with Laravel framework is used to implement the back-end logic and the ORM structurers. It is the base of the project that handles all the core logic and algorithms as well as providing a MVC structure for development. The system is built using PHP 8.0 and Laravel 9.47.0.

5.1.1.4. PHP Storm IDE

The system is developed using PHP Storm IDE with student license. It was chosen as it provides a better, leaner, and easier development interface and a better IntelliSense compared to other alternatives. The availability of free student license allowed for the project cost to be reduced.

5.1.1.5. MySQL

The core database of the project is built in MySQL using PHP as PHP offers an easy integration of the MySQL databases.

5.1.1.6. GitHub with Git

Git is a version control system. And GitHub is an online tool that uses git for version control and team collaboration. The combination of these tools was used for project versioning and code collaboration within the project team.

5.1.1.7. XAMPP server

In this project the XAMPP server allowed the simulation of the Apache server to run the PHP scripts and implement the MySQL database.

5.1.2. Design and Documentation Tools

5.1.2.1. diagrams.net

The project uses diagrams.net to prepare the various UML diagrams like use-case diagram and activity diagram.

5.1.2.2. Microsoft Project

In this project Microsoft Project is used as the project analysis tool that allowed for the schedule analysis and planning using work breakdown structure and Gantt charts.

5.1.2.3. Microsoft Word

Microsoft Word is a word processor software. It is used during the report and proposal preparation for the project.

5.1.2.4. Microsoft PowerPoint

In this project, Microsoft PowerPoint is used for preparing the presentation slides during the proposal submission and defence, mid-term defence, and final defence.
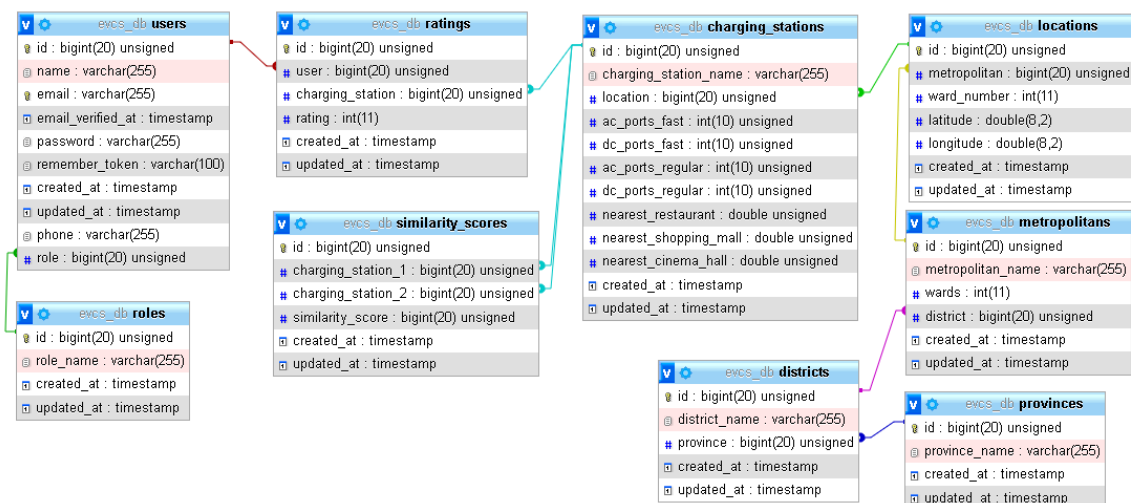
5.2. Database Implementation

Figure 5.1: Database implementation

5.3.   Algorithm Implementation

This system uses item-based approach and a memory-based method to implement collaborative filtering. The system implements vector cosine-based similarity to compute the similarity score required for the memory-based approach. The algorithm is implemented in two phases. The first phase is the computation of similarity scores between two charging stations while the second phase is the execution of the recommendation system using weighted average.

5.3.1.   Phase 1: Similarity between charging stations using cosine similarity

The first phase in the implementation of algorithm in the system is the implementation of cosine similarity between the charging stations. Unlike the general approach of using the user ratings itself for the computation of similarity scores to generate a similarity matrix, this system used the attributes of the charging stations itself to factor into the computation of the similarity matrix. The system calculates the similarity scores using the cosine similarity as mentioned in section 4.2.3 of this document.

$$S_c(A, B) = \frac{\vec{A}.\vec{B}}{\left|\left|\vec{A}\right|\right| . \left|\left|\vec{B}\right|\right|} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \vec{A}_i.\vec{B}_i}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \vec{A}_i^2} . \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \vec{B}_i^2}}$$

Here, A and B are the two charging stations vectors whose similarity scores are to be computed and S_c is the similarity score obtained. The attributes of the charging stations that contribute to the computation of similarity scorers are:

- Number of Type 1 AC charging ports, AC regular charging ports
- Number of Type 2 AC charging ports, AC fast charging ports
- Number of CHAdeMO charging ports, DC regular charging ports
- Number of Combined Charging System (CCS) charging ports, DC fast charging ports
- Distance from the nearest restaurant
- Distance from the nearest shopping mall
- Distance from the nearest cinema hall

The distances are first transformed into discrete values using a discretisation method. The distances are discretised based on the distance value. The discretisation transformation method is implemented so that the large distance values can be transformed into smaller values so that it is easier to compute. The distance is not as sensitive so the discretisation induced data loss is not a major issue. The discretisation is done as:

Table 5.1: Discretisation of distance

S.N.	Distance	Discretised
1	>500	0
2	>450 and <=500	1
3	>400 and <=450	2
4	>350 and <=400	3
5	>300 and <=350	4
6	>250 and <=300	5
7	>200 and <=250	6
8	>150 and <=200	7
9	>100 and <=150	8
10	>50 and <=100	9
11	>0 and <=50	10
12	=0	0

The dot product of the two vectors is then calculated using the above-mentioned formula. There are 7 attributes involved in the similarity calculation, so taking n = 7, the formula can be re-written with consideration of the attributes as:

$$S_c(A,B) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{7} \vec{A}_i . \vec{B}_i}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{7} \vec{A}_i^2} . \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \vec{B}_i^2}}$$

If the 7 attributes of $\vec{A}$ is named as $a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, a_6$, and a_7 and that of $\vec{B}$ is named as $b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4, b_5, b_6$, and b_7 then the similarity score is computed as:

$$S_c(A,B) =$$

$$\frac{a_1.b_1 + a_2.b_2 + a_3.b_3 + a_4.b_4 + a_5.b_5 + a_6.b_6 + a_7.b_7}{\sqrt{a_1{}^2 + a_2{}^2 + a_3{}^2 + a_4{}^2 + a_5{}^2 + a_6{}^2 + a_7{}^2} . \sqrt{b_1{}^2 + b_2{}^2 + b_3{}^2 + b_4{}^2 + b_5{}^2 + b_6{}^2 + b_7{}^2}}$$

5.3.2.   Phase 2: Predicted rating generation using weighted average

The second phase is the implementation of the predicted rating calculation to find which charging station is to be recommended. The system calculates the weighted average using the method as mentioned in section 4.2.4 of this document.

$$W = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i X_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i}$$

Here, w_i is the weight value, X_i is the item value and W is the weight obtained after the computation. For this system, the weight is the similarity score between the charging stations. The item value is the rating provided to the charging station by the user. So, if we consider $P(c, u)$ as the predicted rating of charging station c for user u, S_{c,c_i} as the similarity score between the charging station c and c_i, and R_{u,c_i} as the rating provided by user u to charging station c_i then we can rewrite the formula as:

$$P(c, u) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} S_{c,c_i} . R_{u,c_i}}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} S_{c,c_i}}$$

5.4. Testing

Testing is the process subjecting the system to various conditions, scenarios, or constraints so as to find whether the system performs correctly and desirably. Testing is performed parallelly to coding. If any bugs or errors are found during the testing phase, it is fixed via editing the code or re-coding.

Validation ensures that the software satisfies the user requirements. If the software matches the user requirements, it is said to be validated.

Verification makes sure that the system is developed following the proper specifications and methodologies. If the software matches the development criteria it is said o be verified.

This system was subject to various scenarios and the outcome was noted. The system was tested using test cases which have been documented as:

Table 5.2: Test case for signup

Test Case ID	TC-1
Test Scenario	Register new user
Actions	1. Open Register page 2. Input the name, email, and password. 3. Click "Register" button.
Input	Name: Ram Dhami Email: ramdhami@gmail.com Password: 23morang@33 Confirm password: 23morang@33
Expected Results	• Redirected to recommendations page. • Ram Dhami is displayed on top right of screen.
Observed Results	As expected
Assertation	Pass

Table 5.3: Test case for login

Test Case ID	TC-2
Test Scenario	Login existing user
Actions	1. Open Login page 2. Input the email and password. 3. Click "Login" button.
Input	Email: ramdhami@gmail.com Password: 23morang@33
Expected Results	• Redirected to recommendations page. • Ram Dhami is displayed on top right of screen.
Observed Results	As expected
Assertion	Pass

Table 5.4: Test case for addition of rating with valid data

Test Case ID	TC-3
Test Scenario	Addition of rating using valid data.
Actions	1. Open rate page. 2. Input the location, the charging station, and rating. 3. Press "Add Rating" button.
Input	Province: Bagmati District: Kathmandu Metropolitan: Kathmandu Ward: 22 Charging Station: Jagat Charging Station Rating: 4
Expected Results	• Success message is displayed. • "ratings" table is updated.
Observed Results	As expected
Assertion	Pass

Table 5.5: Test case for addition of charging station with valid data

Test Case ID	TC-4
Test Scenario	Addition of charging station with valid data.
Actions	1. Open Add Charging Station page. 2. Input the locations and the charging station details. 3. Press "Add Charging Station"
Input	Name: Shiva Shakti Charging Station Province: Bagmati District: Kathmandu Metropolitan: Kathmandu Ward: 30 Fast Charging AC Ports: 2 Fast Charging DC Ports: 3 Regular AC Ports: 4 Regular DC Ports: 4 Nearest Restaurant: 312 Nearest Shopping Mall: 569 Nearest Cinema Hall: 452
Expected Results	• Success message is displayed • "charging_stations" table has a new entry with the columns having the values as inputted.s • Redirect to index page.
Observed Results	As expected
Assertation	Pass

Table 5.6: Test case for addition of charging station with invalid data

Test Case ID	TC-5
Test Scenario	Addition of charging station using invalid data.
Actions	1. Open Add Charging Station page. 2. Input the locations and the charging station details. 3. Press "Add Charging Station" button.
Input	Name: Jagat Charging Station Province: Bagmati District: Kathmandu Metropolitan: Kathmandu Ward: 22 Fast Charging AC Ports: 2 Fast Charging DC Ports: 3 Regular AC Ports: 4 Regular DC Ports: 4 Nearest Restaurant: 312 Nearest Shopping Mall: 569 Nearest Cinema Hall: -1
Expected Results	• System does not allow the invalid data and error message is displayed
Observed Results	As expected
Assertation	Pass

Table 5.7: Test case for getting recommendation without ward

Test Case ID	TC-6
Test Scenario	Get recommendation of charging station without inputting ward.
Actions	1. Open Recommendations page. 2. Input the location and check the Exclude Ward checkbox. 3. Press "Get recommendation" button.
Input	Province: Bagmati District: Kathmandu Metropolitan: Kathmandu
Expected Results	• Top 3 charging stations displayed.
Observed Results	As expected
Assertion	Pass

Table 5.8: Test case for getting recommendation with ward

Test Case ID	TC-7
Test Scenario	Get recommendation of charging station.
Actions	1. Open Recommendations page. 2. Uncheck the Exclude Ward checkbox. 3. Input the location. 4. Press "Get recommendation" button.
Input	Province: Bagmati District: Kathmandu Metropolitan: Kathmandu Ward: 3
Expected Results	• Top 3 charging stations displayed.
Observed Results	As expected
Assertion	Pass

CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION AND FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. Conclusion

The product of this work, Electric Vehicle Charging Station Recommendation System, is a web-based application that provides a platform that recommends EV charging stations to the user in their desired location. The memory-based approach of cosine similarity and weighted average allows the system to have decent scalability on co-related items. The system has functional authentication, similarity calculation during insertion, rating, and recommendation. The system is able to recommend the charging station in the said location and the algorithm functions as intended. Existing recommendation systems had a problem of specialisation. They were either too technical and thus overlooked the human aspect as EV charging is not a quick endeavour, or overlooked the technical aspect and were recommending based on ratings of users alone, which in times recommended incompatible charging stations. The system incorporates both the technical and human aspects of the charging station to provide a better recommendation for the users.

6.2. Future Recommendations

In spite of the system having good performance, the system could still be improved upon. The system can incorporate maps and use dynamic distance computation to provide a more dynamic system to the users as well as the admin. PHP is not well suited for implementation of high-end ML and AI algorithms. A change in the choice of the backend framework could allow implementation of a hybrid filtering approach, despite being highly complex. Finally, in the era of real-time technology, the system could be subject to further improvements by adding real-time booking and scheduling of the EV charging station ports.

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APPENDIX

Snippets of major source code components

Computation of similarity scores

```
function calculateSimilarityScores($cs1, $cs2) {

    $chargingStationModel = new ChargingStation();

    $cs_att_1 = $chargingStationModel->getChargingStationAttributes($cs1);

    $cs_att_2 = $chargingStationModel->getChargingStationAttributes($cs2);

    $ab = $cs_att_1[0]->ac_ports_fast * $cs_att_2[0]->ac_ports_fast +

        $cs_att_1[0]->dc_ports_fast * $cs_att_2[0]->dc_ports_fast +

        $cs_att_1[0]->ac_ports_regular * $cs_att_2[0]->ac_ports_regular +

        $cs_att_1[0]->dc_ports_regular * $cs_att_2[0]->dc_ports_regular +

        $this->distance_scale($cs_att_1[0]->nearest_restaurant) *

            $this->distance_scale($cs_att_2[0]->nearest_restaurant) +

        $this->distance_scale($cs_att_1[0]->nearest_shopping_mall) *

            $this->distance_scale($cs_att_2[0]->nearest_shopping_mall) +

        $this->distance_scale($cs_att_1[0]->nearest_cinema_hall) *

            $this->distance_scale($cs_att_2[0]->nearest_cinema_hall);

    $aSquared = $cs_att_1[0]->ac_ports_fast * $cs_att_1[0]->ac_ports_fast +

        $cs_att_1[0]->dc_ports_fast * $cs_att_1[0]->dc_ports_fast +

        $cs_att_1[0]->ac_ports_regular * $cs_att_1[0]->ac_ports_regular +

        $cs_att_1[0]->dc_ports_regular * $cs_att_1[0]->dc_ports_regular +

        $this->distance_scale($cs_att_1[0]->nearest_restaurant) *

            $this->distance_scale($cs_att_1[0]->nearest_restaurant) +

        $this->distance_scale($cs_att_1[0]->nearest_shopping_mall) *

            $this->distance_scale($cs_att_1[0]->nearest_shopping_mall) +

        $this->distance_scale($cs_att_1[0]->nearest_cinema_hall) *

            $this->distance_scale($cs_att_1[0]->nearest_cinema_hall);

    $bSquared = $cs_att_2[0]->ac_ports_fast * $cs_att_2[0]->ac_ports_fast +

        $cs_att_2[0]->dc_ports_fast * $cs_att_2[0]->dc_ports_fast +

        $cs_att_2[0]->ac_ports_regular * $cs_att_2[0]->ac_ports_regular +

        $cs_att_2[0]->dc_ports_regular * $cs_att_2[0]->dc_ports_regular +

        $this->distance_scale($cs_att_2[0]->nearest_restaurant) *

            $this->distance_scale($cs_att_2[0]->nearest_restaurant) +
```

```php
            $this->distance_scale($cs_att_2[0]->nearest_shopping_mall) *
                $this->distance_scale($cs_att_2[0]->nearest_shopping_mall) +
            $this->distance_scale($cs_att_2[0]->nearest_cinema_hall) *
                $this->distance_scale($cs_att_2[0]->nearest_cinema_hall);
        if ($aSquared == 0 || $bSquared == 0) {
            $similarityScore = 0;
        } else {
            $similarityScore = $ab / (sqrt($aSquared) * sqrt($bSquared));
        }
        return $similarityScore;
    }
```

Computation of missing rating and recommendation

```php
function getRecommendation(Request $request) {
    $ratingsModel = new Ratings();
    $chargingStationModel = new ChargingStation();
    $recommendationRating = [0, 0, 0];
    $recommendations = [0, 0, 0];
    $user_rating = $ratingsModel->userRatings();
    $chargingStationLocation = '';
    if($user_rating->count() <= 3) {
        request()->session()->flash('error', 'Please rate at least 3 charging stations.');
        return redirect()->route('recommendations.index');
    } else {
        if($request->get('ward_enabled') == 0) {
            $chargingStationLocation =
                $chargingStationModel->getChargingStationNoWard($request);
        } elseif ($request->get('ward_enabled') == 1) {
            $chargingStationLocation =
            $chargingStationModel->getChargingStationWard($request);
        }
        foreach ($chargingStationLocation as $csl) {
            $ratingEstimateNum = 0;
            $ratingEstimateDen = 0;
```

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```php
        foreach ($user_rating as $ur) {
            $similarityScore = $this->calculateSimilarityScores(
                $ur->charging_station, $csl->charging_station);
            $ratingEstimateNum = $ratingEstimateNum + $ur->rating * $similarityScore;
            $ratingEstimateDen += $similarityScore;
        }
        if ($ratingEstimateDen == 0) {
            $ratingEstimate = 0;
        } else {
            $ratingEstimate = $ratingEstimateNum / $ratingEstimateDen;
        }
        if ($ratingEstimate >= $recommendationRating[0]) {
            $recommendationRating[2] = $recommendationRating[1];
            $recommendationRating[1] = $recommendationRating[0];
            $recommendationRating[0] = $ratingEstimate;
            $recommendations[2] = $recommendations[1];
            $recommendations[1] = $recommendations[0];
            $recommendations[0] = $csl->charging_station;
        } elseif ($ratingEstimate >= $recommendationRating[1]) {
            $recommendationRating[2] = $recommendationRating[1];
            $recommendationRating[1] = $ratingEstimate;
            $recommendations[2] = $recommendations[1];
            $recommendations[1] = $csl->charging_station;
        } elseif ($ratingEstimate >= $recommendationRating[2]) {
            $recommendationRating[2] = $ratingEstimate;
            $recommendations[2] = $csl->charging_station;
        }
    }
}
$provinceModel = new Provinces();
$data['provinces'] = $provinceModel->selectProvinces();
$data['user'] = Auth::id();
$recommendation1 =
    $chargingStationModel->getFinalRecommendation($recommendations[0]);
```

```php
$recommendation2 =
    $chargingStationModel->getFinalRecommendation($recommendations[1]);
$recommendation3 =
    $chargingStationModel->getFinalRecommendation($recommendations[2]);
$data['recommendations'] =
    collect([$recommendation1, $recommendation2, $recommendation3]);
$data['actual_cs'] = $recommendations;
$data['estimated_rating'] = $recommendationRating;
return view('recommend.recommend', compact('data'));
}
```

Discretisation of Distances

```php
function distance_scale($distance_str) {
    $distance = (float)$distance_str;
    if ($distance == 0) {return 0;}
    else if ($distance <= 50) {return 10;}
    else if ($distance <= 100) {return 9;}
    else if ($distance <= 150) {return 8;}
    else if ($distance <= 200) {return 7;}
    else if ($distance <= 250) {return 6;}
    else if ($distance <= 300) {return 5;}
    else if ($distance <= 350) {return 4;}
    else if ($distance <= 400) {return 3;}
    else if ($distance <= 450) {return 2;}
    else if ($distance <= 500) {return 1;}
    else {return 0;}
}
```

Screenshots

Add Metropolitan

Province: -Select Province-

District: -Select District-

Metropolitan Name:

Number Of Wards:

Add Metropolitan

Return To Main

Charging Stations

Add A Charging Station   Add A Metropolitan

Search

Province: Bagmati Pradesh

District: Sindhuli

Metropolitan: Sunkoshi

Ward: -Select Ward-

List of Charging Stations

Charging Station Name	Location	
BP Highway DC Fast Charge	Sunkoshi-5, Sindhuli, Bagmati Pradesh	Edit
Taj Riverside Resort TATA Motors	Sunkoshi-5, Sindhuli, Bagmati Pradesh	Edit
Akshit Resort And Rafting	Sunkoshi-5, Sindhuli, Bagmati Pradesh	Edit

---

Recommendations

Province: -Select Province-

District: -Select District-

Metropolitan: -Select Metropolitan-

Ward: -Select Ward- ☑ Exclude Ward

Get Recommendation

Back To Main   Rate A Charging Station Instead

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Recommendations

Province:	-Select Province- ⌄
District:	-Select District- ⌄
Metropolitan:	-Select Metropolitan- ⌄
Ward:	-Select Ward- ⌄ ☑ Exclude Ward

Get Recommendation

Name	Location	Estimated Rating
Yatri Motorcycles Experience Center	Kathmandu-4, Kathmandu, Bagmati Pradesh	3.64
Trade Tower Thapathali	Kathmandu-11, Kathmandu, Bagmati Pradesh	3.61
New Shiv Service Center	Kathmandu-10, Kathmandu, Bagmati Pradesh	3.6

Back To Main   **Rate A Charging Station Instead**