



# Recommending stocks

An La - 12th May, 2020



# Demo Script

Script:

[https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1jWa0d05E4phx0QqT8lOBsl\\_p-lrS2xh9](https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1jWa0d05E4phx0QqT8lOBsl_p-lrS2xh9)

Dataset: file ML-technicaltest-ecommerce.csv

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12aNzUg-zKHuJqa45Z3RkpwD2uUqPq4s?usp=drive link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12aNzUg-zKHuJqa45Z3RkpwD2uUqPq4s?usp=drive_link)

# Outline

1. Problem Statement, assumptions and the process of modelling
2. Exploring data ([link](#))
3. Methods Review & Planning ([link](#))
4. Pre-processing and Feature engineering ([link](#))
5. Recommending models ([link](#))
  - 5.1. Content-based
  - 5.2. Collaborative Filtering
  - 5.3. The Hybrid
6. System design ([link](#))
7. Summary ([link](#))

# 1. Problem Statement, assumptions and the process of modelling

## 1.1 Problem Statement

Recommend list of 5 related stocks from the current stock.

Questions:

- Target from business?
  - Attracting more users -> target metric: number of users
  - Improve engagement of current users -> target metric: average number of purchases/week, months...
- Definitions of “related”?
  - Depending on the target

# 1. Problem Statement, assumptions and the process of modelling

## 1.2 Assumptions

Suppose the targets:

- Supporting users to explore products
- No business metrics.

Definitions of “related”:

- Similar in *usage* (kitchen utensils, garden tools), *properties* (technical devices, decorating gadgets), *context* (Christmas, Summer)...
- “People buy x also buy y”: expensive wall clock -> luxurious jewels (they’re rich), a guitar -> paintings (they like arts), tree pots -> books (they’re retired and enjoy life at home).

# 1. Problem Statement, assumptions and the process of modelling

## 1.3 The process of modelling

### Normal process of modelling

- Explore data: getting overview (1) and considering the target
- Analyze relationship between the target and data fields (2)
- Getting overview of current methods and Planning (3)
- Feature engineering (4)
- Modelling (5)
- Evaluation (6): offline metrics of models (such as precision) and business metrics.

### With assumptions:

- No business target metrics -> No analysis (skip 2), the evaluation (6) is considered by just offline metrics

# Structure of The Slide

Following the process of modeling for this task.

- Section 2 and 3: explanation about data and how and why to select methods. These parts are preparation for section 4 and 5.
- Section 4 and 5: details of methods and challenges caused by particular cases of the dataset. Evaluation of methods is included.
- Section 6: a little bit about designing the appropriate pipeline.

## 2. Exploring data

- Separating train/test
- Getting overview
- Classifying stocks, users and invoices
- Relationship between users and stocks
- Relationship between users/stocks and unitprice/quantity
- Conclusion

This section mainly focuses on behaviour of users. Exploring more on stocks and their description is presented in section 4.



# Separating train/test

To make sure to keep the testing data private, the first step is splitting dataset. In the real context, we do not know will data of tomorrow is different from today, so that completely keep testing secret is necessary.

Splitting is based on InvoiceNo: training data has 90% invoices and testing has 10% invoice. Hope that removing 10% invoice does not bring too much difference from full data to training.

However, after splitting, some InvoiceNo are lost.

From now, just explore training data.

```
Number of purchases in full data: 541909
Number of purchases in training data: 315838
Number of purchases in testing data: 53911
Number of Invoices in full data: 25900
Number of Invoices in training data: 15411
Number of Invoices in testing data: 2474
```

# Overview

- 315838 lines in training data
- Each line is called a purchase, identified by Key: *InvoiceNo* and *StockCode*
- All columns have low missing rate, except CustomerID is 24%
- There are 38 countries, UK is dominant in lines and number of stocks.
- In most of countries, purchases have stable prices and quantity.

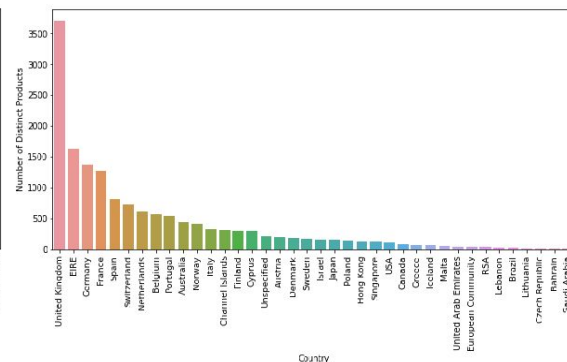
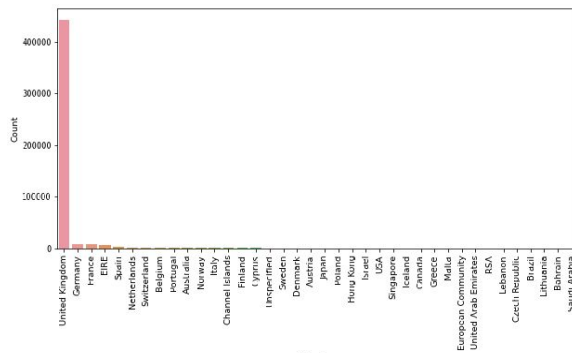
```
The number of unique invoice: 15411
Special cases of invoice:
+ None or multiple countries: 0
+ Negative Quantity: 3129
+ Negative Unit Price: 1
```

```
The number of unique items by StockCode: 3923
The number of unique items by Description: 4036
```

```
The number of unique users/customers: 3669
```

## Summary basic info of Data

	InvoiceNo	StockCode	Description	Quantity	UnitPrice	CustomerID	Country
0	563709	22152	PLACE SETTING WHITE STAR	3	0.42	15472	United Kingdom
1	574076	23485	BOTANICAL GARDENS WALL CLOCK	1	49.96	<NA>	United Kingdom
2	546417	20996	JAZZ HEARTS ADDRESS BOOK	24	0.42	14800	United Kingdom
3	549586	22666	RECIPE BOX PANTRY YELLOW DESIGN	1	6.63	<NA>	United Kingdom
4	568197	20713	JUMBO BAG OWLS	10	2.08	16746	United Kingdom



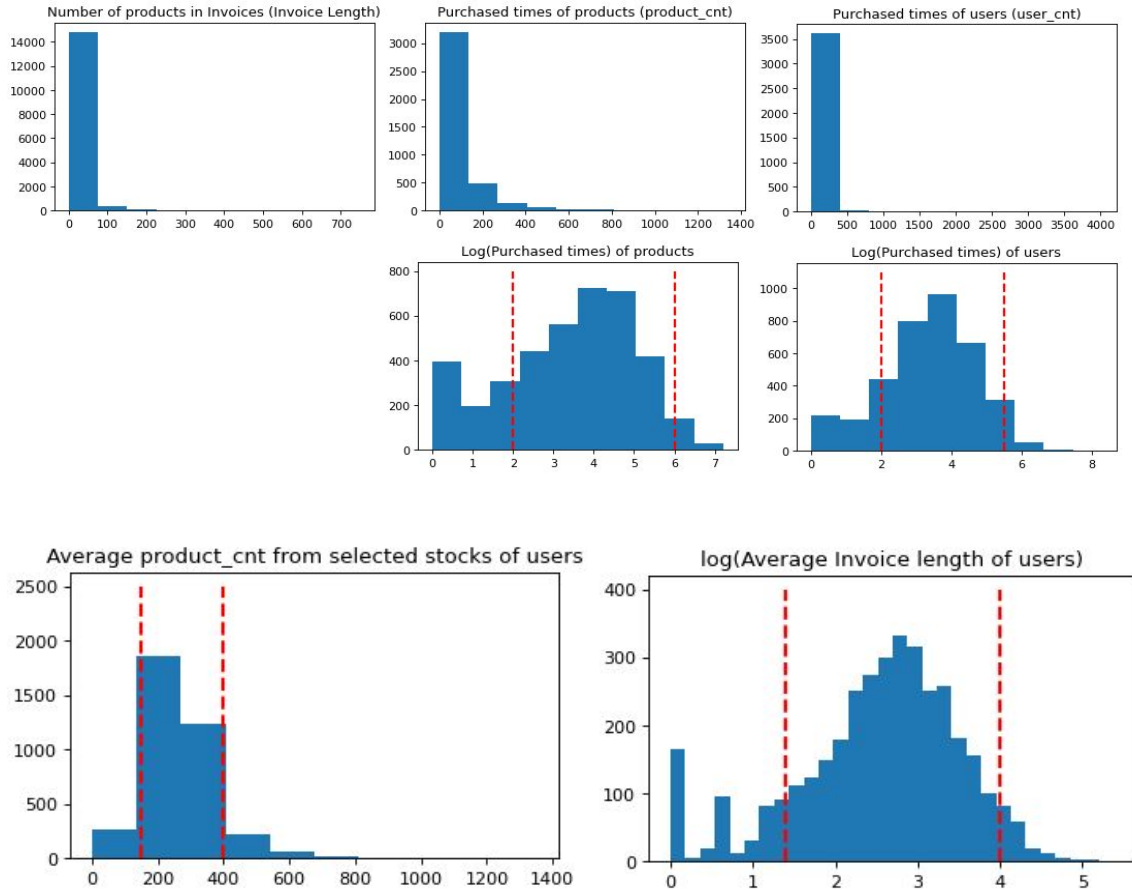
The number of lines (left) and stocks (right) in countries

# Classifying

Extract some information

- Number of stocks in invoices (invoice length). 91% are less than 50 items.
- Product aspects: number of purchased times (product\_cnt)
- User aspects: number of purchasing times (user\_cnt), average of product\_cnt from selected stocks of users, average length of invoices of users

These values can be helpful in classifying users, products.



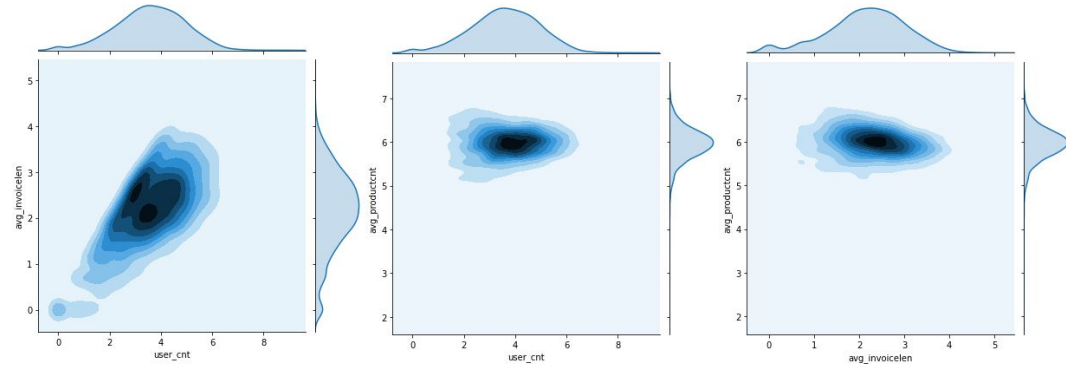
# Users and Stocks

Selecting user features:

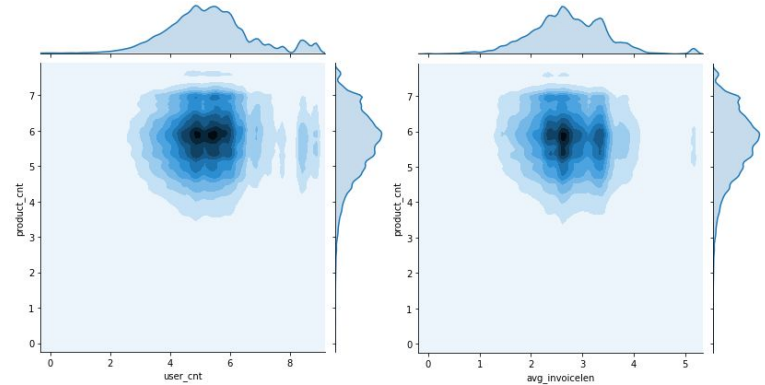
- user\_cnt and avg\_invoicelen have high correlation -> no need to use avg\_invoicelen
- user\_cnt and avg product\_cnt seem to be independent to each other

Relationship with stock feature (product\_cnt)

- No special pattern



Visualizing relationship between user features



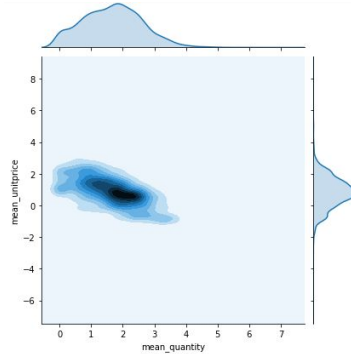
Visualizing relationship between user\_cnt and product\_cnt

# Quantity and UnitPrice

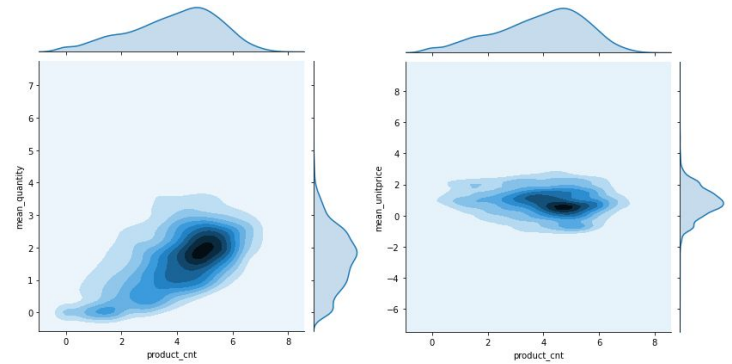
In general, in all stocks and purchases, higher unitprice, lower quantity.

Stocks which have higher product\_cnt have higher quantity. This is nature, thus this relationship doesn't bring insights.

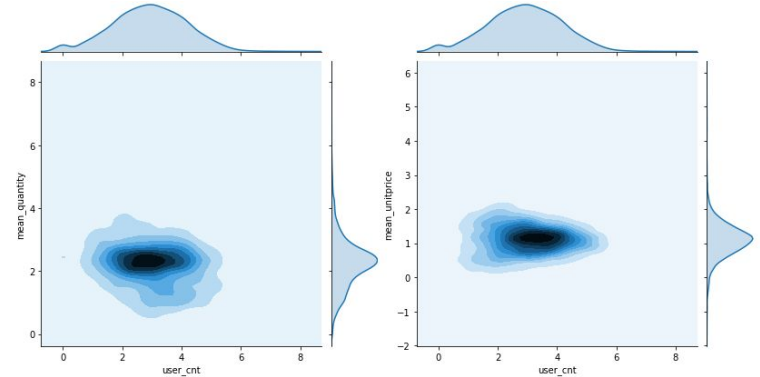
There is no special pattern between features of users and unitprice or quantity.



Relationship between average quantity and unitprice of all stocks



Relationship between average quantity/unitprice and purchased times of stocks (product\_cnt)



Relationship between average quantity/unitprice and purchased times of user (user\_cnt)

# Conclusion

- We have near 4000 products, but most of invoice have less than 50 items. This is natural in real-life, thus an obvious challenge of recommendation: **it's difficult to predict** the next choice of users, connection between users and items are sparse, and small rate of selection (**imbalanced output classes**).
- **No need to make recommendation for each country**, since data is strongly dominant by UK. Other countries may not have enough data for training
- All patterns in data are nature in services, therefore we don't have specific cases, **no need to customize with specific cases** of users or products.
- Because of no special patterns, **random subsets of data with large enough size** can reflect properties of the large data. This is helpful for training and testing methods.
  - E.g: using set of high-length invoices only can reduce sparsity but not lose too much information.
- Because of no special pattern, we lose some advantages of applying popular traditional methods, such as recommending only trending products is widely applied, especially when data distribution is matching with the Pareto principle (e.g Top 20% products contributes 80% purchases). **Carefully selecting strategies for methods is necessary.**

# 3. Methods review and Planning

1. Main models: Content-based and collaborative Filtering
2. Hybrid models
3. Post-processing
4. Offline evaluation
5. Selecting appropriate methods

# 3. Main models: Content-based and Collaborative Filtering

**Content-based:** recommending similar items from current items. Similarity is calculated by comparing description or metadata of items.

Performance of this method depends on

- Quality of metadata, description
- Pre-processing metadata, description
- Calculating similarity between items

Advantages: do not depend on density of connection.

**Collaborative Filtering:** find similar items or users based on the history:

- Item-item techniques: find similarity between items to make recommendation
- User-item techniques: find similarity between users then recommending unselected items from considering selected lists of similar users.



Both 2 types of techniques of Collaborative Filtering have 2 approaches:

- **Memory-based:** discover underlying patterns between users and items, have high accuracy.

Traditional methods of this approach (e.g. *Matrix Factorization*) has low scalability due to high complexity. Recently, *graph-based methods* overcome these limitation.

- **Model based:** approximate memory-based methods to have better scalability but low accuracy (e.g ALS). This approach is just suitable for small system.

These techniques do not depend on content or explicit information.

Performance of these methods depend on

- Density of history

Advantages:

- do not depend on explicit information such as description

# The hybrid

Even a model can be tuned with different parameters with different strategies to deal with particular cases of data. Sometimes, we also need consider score from particular properties. E.g: we want to introduce more items on topic 16 to users, but they has low product\_cnt, leads to rarely be recommended. In this case, a simple solution is using a score which imposes high priority on them.

Step by step to hybrid scores:

- Scale scores into the same range
- Manually tuning
- Automatic hybrid
  - Using ensemble methods: bagging or boosting (AdaBoost, XGBoost, GradBoost)...
  - Training a neural network

# Post-processing

Post-processing is applied to:

- Deal with cases which do not have enough information as input to feed to models, such as the current items are new, don't have enough data
- Smooth the results of models

Trending recommending is usually added to this part as default results for all cases of users and products.

# Offline evaluation

- Accuracy is reflected by precision.
- For long-term, some other aspect of recommendation system should be considered. Because recommending is an intervention to data in system. After applying recommending, the data distribution may be affected, such as:
  - parameters of methods maybe no longer appropriate.
  - Recommending too much on small set of products
  - Low personalization: No difference between recommending times of the same users or between users.

Metric		Meaning
<b>precision</b>	higher is better	The rate reflects how correct of recommendation
<b>popularity</b>		How popular the products are. Calculating popularity of products, then averaging all products that are recommended.
<b>diversity</b>	higher is better	Personalization ability of recommendation: difference on recommending results between users
<b>coverage</b>	higher is better	rate of products recommended at least to 1 time
<b>congestion</b>	lower is better	difference on number of recommending times between products

# Selecting appropriate methods

## 1. Content-based:

- Processing description to create vectors representing properties of products.
  - Define a list of properties: places (office, kitchen, garden), season (Christmas, summer, winter), time (modern or traditional), objectives (students, elder, pet)... With each property, define a set of decision rules and represent items as binary vector from description.
  - Run topic model algorithms to represent items as numeric vector of topics.
  - Use word2vec to represent words in description as numeric vector.
  - Classify items by their quantity and unitprice
- Calculating distance between vectors to show how related between items
  - Euclid distance
  - Cosine distance
  - ...

# Selecting appropriate methods

## 2. Collaborative Filtering

- Should not use model-based
  - Approximating memory-based -> less accuracy
  - The data size is large while connection between users and products is sparse.
- Traditional memory-based methods
  - can be used to validate graph-based methods and pre-calculated in offline to assist real-time functions.
- Use graph memory-based methods
  - Dealing with the sparse connection between users and products
  - Easy to compute and explain results
  - Considering personalization

# Selecting appropriate methods

## 3. The hybrid

- Since the data is extremely sparse, which leads to imbalance output classes, we should use simple model first for easier explaining the results, then apply more advanced techniques later.
- The other important problem is defining input, output format, selecting appropriate loss function for the hybrid model:
  - Because we don't have time of each purchases, so that we can not group all purchases by users and split them to historical data as input and current choices as output.
  - Instead, I use Invoice. The input is set of each item in the invoice, and the output is the rest of items in the invoice. Thus, each invoice with n items bring the input n lines. Detail in section 5.
  - When users selected items, there is no information reflects how they like products. Therefore our labels are binary. Further processing to generate term of "rating" can be considered, such as from normalizing all quantity of all users with the same products.

# Conclusion

## Selected methods

- Content-based: preprocessing and feature extraction from Description, then calculating similarity between items
- Collaborative Filtering: calculate implicit relationships of items and users by graph memory-based models. Considering personalization
- The hybrid: use Invoices to generate input and output, train a hybrid model simply by neural network.



# 4. Pre-processing and Feature Extraction

Fortunately, there is a marginal difference between full data and training data on StockCode and Description.

- Some StockCode have both lower and upper character -> fix them
- Some StockCode have multiple description -> keep the first description only

Number of unique StockCode and Description

+ Data full:

	field	Unique Count
0	StockCode	4070
1	Description	4223

+ Training data:

	field	Unique Count
0	StockCode	3923
1	Description	4036

StockCode	Description
84558A	3D DOG PICTURE PLAYING CARDS
84558a	3D DOG PICTURE PLAYING CARDS
85184C	S/4 VALENTINE DECOUPAGE HEART BOX
85184C	SET 4 VALENTINE DECOUPAGE HEART BOX

# 4. Pre-processing and Feature Extraction

- Applying topic model algorithm (LDA):
  - Grouping stock by Invoices
  - Considering invoices as document, products as words
  - Experiments with number of topics = [4, 8, 12, 16] ... Select number of topics=16
  - Products are assigned to topics from 0 to 15. Products with no topics are assign as 16.

	InvoiceNo	Products
0	536366	[22633, 22632]
1	536367	[84879, 22745, 22748, 22749, 22310, 84969, 226...
2	536370	[22728, 22727, 22726, 21724, 21883, 10002, 217...
3	536374	[21258]
4	536375	[85123A, 71053, 84406B, 20679, 37370, 21871, 2...

Results of clustering Products in the next slides.

Number of products in topics 0: 885  
 Number of products in topics 1: 736  
 Number of products in topics 2: 929  
 Number of products in topics 3: 952  
 Number of products in topics 4: 721  
 Number of products in topics 5: 711  
 Number of products in topics 6: 679  
 Number of products in topics 7: 972

Number of products in topics 8: 666  
 Number of products in topics 9: 616  
 Number of products in topics 10: 754  
 Number of products in topics 11: 824  
 Number of products in topics 12: 1147  
 Number of products in topics 13: 657  
 Number of products in topics 14: 893  
 Number of products in topics 15: 713  
 Number of products with no topics: 631

	Topic #01	Topic #02	Topic #03	Topic #04	Topic #05	Topic #06	Topic #07	Topic #08	Topic #09	Topic #10	Topic #11	Topic #12	Topic #13	Topic #14	Topic #15	Topic #16
0	KEY FOB , BACK DOOR	BAKING SET 9 PIECE RETROSPOT	WOODEN STAR CHRISTMAS SCANDINAVIAN	TRAVEL CARD WALLET KEEP CALM	ANTIQUE SILVER TEA GLASS ETCHED	ALARM CLOCK BAKELIKE GREEN	JUMBO BAG RED RETROSPOT	PINK REGENCY TEACUP AND SAUCER	SET OF 3 CAKE TINS PANTRY DESIGN	LUNCH BAG RED RETROSPOT	POSTAGE	PACK OF 72 RETROSPOT CAKE CASES	CHRISTMAS PUDDING TRINKET POT	ASSORTED COLOUR BIRD ORNAMENT	DOTCOM POSTAGE	HAND WARMER OWL DESIGN
1	KEY FOB , SHED	VINTAGE SNAP CARDS	PAPER CHAIN KIT 50'S CHRISTMAS	TRAVEL CARD WALLET I LOVE LONDON	BLUE STRIPE CERAMIC DRAWER KNOB	ALARM CLOCK BAKELIKE RED	JUMBO BAG PINK POLKADOT	ROSES REGENCY TEACUP AND SAUCER	JAM MAKING SET WITH JARS	LUNCH BAG BLACK SKULL	RABBIT NIGHT LIGHT	PACK OF 60 DINOSAUR CAKE CASES	4 VANILLA BOTANICAL CANDLES	REGENCY CAKESTAND 3 TIER	WRAP CHRISTMAS VILLAGE	DOORMAT KEEP CALM AND COME IN
2	MAGNETS PACK OF 4 SWALLOWS	TRADITIONAL KNITTING NANCY	SET OF 20 VINTAGE CHRISTMAS NAPKINS	TRAVEL CARD WALLET VINTAGE TICKET	RED STRIPE CERAMIC DRAWER KNOB	ALARM CLOCK BAKELIKE PINK	JUMBO BAG BAROQUE BLACK WHITE	CHOCOLATE HOT WATER BOTTLE	RECIPE BOX PANTRY YELLOW DESIGN	ZINC FOLKART SLEIGH BELLS	SET OF 4 KNICK KNACK TINS DOILEY	72 SWEETHEART FAIRY CAKE CASES	FLORAL FOLK STATIONERY SET	WHITE HANGING HEART T- LIGHT HOLDER	JUMBO BAG WOODLAND ANIMALS	HAND WARMER UNION JACK
3	KEY FOB , GARAGE DESIGN	CHRISTMAS CRAFT LITTLE FRIENDS	SET OF 3 WOODEN HEART DECORATIONS	TRAVEL CARD WALLET PANTRY	RED SPOT CERAMIC DRAWER KNOB	SOLDIERS EGG CUP	JUMBO SHOPPER VINTAGE RED PAISLEY	GIN + TONIC DIET METAL SIGN	SET OF 4 PANTRY JELLY MOULDS	LUNCH BAG CARS BLUE	BOX OF 6 MINI 50'S CRACKERS	PACK OF 72 SKULL CAKE CASES	DARK BIRD HOUSE TREE DECORATION	ANTIQUE SILVER TEA GLASS ETCHED	RECYCLING BAG RETROSPOT	HOT WATER BOTTLE KEEP CALM
4	36 PENCILS TUBE RED RETROSPOT	PAPER CHAIN KIT 50'S CHRISTMAS	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	TRAVEL CARD WALLET TRANSPORT	BLUE SPOT CERAMIC DRAWER KNOB	BICYCLE PUNCTURE REPAIR KIT	JUMBO STORAGE BAG SUKI	GREEN REGENCY TEACUP AND SAUCER	SET OF 6 SPICE TINS PANTRY DESIGN	LUNCH BAG SUKI DESIGN	CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 10 REINDEER	PACK OF 60 SPACEBOY CAKE CASES	SET OF 4 ROSE BOTANICAL CANDLES	HEART OF WICKER LARGE	LARGE CIRCULAR MIRROR MOBILE	HAND WARMER RED LOVE HEART

### Topic 0

36 PENCILS TUBE RED RETROSPOT  
36 PENCILS TUBE RED RETROSPOT  
PLASTERS IN TIN SKULLS  
MAGNETS PACK OF 4 HOME SWEET HOME  
MAGNETS PACK OF 4 SWALLOWS  
KEY FOB , SHED  
KEY FOB , FRONT DOOR  
KEY FOB , GARAGE DESIGN  
PLASTERS IN TIN VINTAGE PAISLEY  
KEY FOB , BACK DOOR

### Topic 1

BAKING SET 9 PIECE RETROSPOT  
PAPER CHAIN KIT 50'S CHRISTMAS  
TRADITIONAL KNITTING NANCY  
FELTCRAFT PRINCESS CHARLOTTE DOLL  
CHRISTMAS CRAFT TREE TOP ANGEL  
FELTCRAFT PRINCESS LOLA DOLL  
PINK CREAM FELT CRAFT TRINKET BOX  
VINTAGE SNAP CARDS  
CHRISTMAS CRAFT LITTLE FRIENDS  
FELTCRAFT CUSHION OWL

### Topic 2

JUMBO BAG VINTAGE CHRISTMAS  
SET OF 20 VINTAGE CHRISTMAS NAPKINS  
SET OF 3 WOODEN HEART DECORATIONS  
SET OF 3 WOODEN STOCKING DECORATION  
JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS  
PAPER CHAIN KIT 50'S CHRISTMAS  
PAPER CHAIN KIT VINTAGE CHRISTMAS  
SET OF 3 WOODEN TREE DECORATIONS  
60 CAKE CASES VINTAGE CHRISTMAS  
WOODEN STAR CHRISTMAS SCANDINAVIAN

### Topic 3

TRAVEL CARD WALLET TRANSPORT  
TRAVEL CARD WALLET SKULLS  
TRAVEL CARD WALLET PANTRY  
TRAVEL CARD WALLET RETROSPOT  
TRAVEL CARD WALLET T LOVE LONDON  
TRAVEL CARD WALLET VINTAGE TICKET  
TRAVEL CARD WALLET RETRO PETALS  
TRAVEL CARD WALLET KEEP CALM  
TRAVEL CARD WALLET UNION JACK  
TRAVEL CARD WALLET SUKI

### Topic 4

CLEAR DRAWER KNOB ACRYLIC EDWARDIAN  
ANTIQUE SILVER TEA GLASS ENGRAVED  
BLUE SPOT CERAMIC DRAWER KNOB  
WHITE SPOT BLUE CERAMIC DRAWER KNOB  
BLUE STRIPE CERAMIC DRAWER KNOB  
RED STRIPE CERAMIC DRAWER KNOB  
ANTIQUE SILVER TEA GLASS ETCHED  
RED SPOT CERAMIC DRAWER KNOB  
WHITE SPOT RED CERAMIC DRAWER KNOB  
MULTI COLOUR SILVER T-LIGHT HOLDER

### Topic 5

BICYCLE PUNCTURE REPAIR KIT  
SOLDIERS EGG CUP  
CLASSIC BICYCLE CLIPS  
ALARM CLOCK BAKELIKE GREEN  
ALARM CLOCK BAKELIKE CHOCOLATE  
ALARM CLOCK BAKELIKE PINK  
ALARM CLOCK BAKELIKE RED  
ALARM CLOCK BAKELIKE IVORY  
LONDON BUS COFFEE MUG  
LUNCH BOX I LOVE LONDON

### Topic 6

JUMBO BAG BAROQUE BLACK WHITE  
RED RETROSPOT CAKE STAND  
LANTERN CREAM GAZEBO  
WHITE WOOD GARDEN PLANT LADDER  
JUMBO BAG PINK POLKADOT  
JUMBO STORAGE BAG SUKI  
JUMBO BAG PINK VINTAGE PAISLEY  
JUMBO SHOPPER VINTAGE RED PAISLEY  
JUMBO BAG RED RETROSPOT  
CREAM SWEETHEART MINI CHEST

### Topic 7

HOT WATER BOTTLE I AM SO POORLY  
PLEASE ONE PERSON METAL SIGN  
COOK WITH WINE METAL SIGN  
GREEN REGENCY TEACUP AND SAUCER  
ROSES REGENCY TEACUP AND SAUCER  
GIN + TONIC DIET METAL SIGN  
HOT WATER BOTTLE TEA AND SYMPATHY  
PINK REGENCY TEACUP AND SAUCER  
HOT WATER BOTTLE KEEP CALM  
CHOCOLATE HOT WATER BOTTLE

### Topic 8

RECIPE BOX PANTRY YELLOW DESIGN  
SAMPLES  
JAM MAKING SET PRINTED  
SET OF TEA COFFEE SUGAR TINS PANTRY  
HUGBOY CUSHION 3 TIE  
SET OF 4 PANTRY JELLY MOUNDS  
SET OF 6 SPICE TINS PANTRY DESIGN  
JAM MAKING SET WITH JARS  
STRAWBERRY CERAMIC TRINKET BOX  
SET OF 3 CAKE TINS PANTRY DESIGN

### Topic 9

ZINC FOLKART SLEIGH BELLS  
LUNCH BAG SUKI DESIGN  
LUNCH BAG CARS BLUE  
LUNCH BAG SPACEBOY DESIGN  
JUMBO BAG RED RETROSPOT  
RED RETROSPOT CHARLOTTE BAG  
LUNCH BAG WOODLAND  
LUNCH BAG RED RETROSPOT  
LUNCH BAG BLACK SKULL  
LUNCH BAG PINK POLKADOT

### Topic 10

PLASTERS IN TIN CIRCUS PARADE  
BOX OF 6 MINI 50'S CRACKERS  
SET OF 4 KNICK KNACK TINS DOILEY  
POSTAGE  
SET OF 5 LUCKY CAT MAGNETS  
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 10 REINDEER  
BLUE HARMONICA IN BOX  
RABBIT NIGHT LIGHT  
PLASTERS IN TIN SPACEBOY  
ROUND SNACK BOXES SET OF 4 WOODLAND

### Topic 11

72 SWEETHEART FAIRY CAKE CASES  
PACK OF 60 SPACEBOY CAKE CASES  
PACK OF 60 DINOSAUR CAKE CASES  
60 FEATINE FAIRY CAKE CASES  
SET/20 RED RETROSPOT PAPER NAPKINS  
PACK OF 72 SKULL CAKE CASES  
SMALL POPCORN HOLDER  
60 CAKE CASES DOLLY GIRL DESIGN  
PACK OF 60 PINK PAISLEY CAKE CASES  
PACK OF 72 RETROSPOT CAKE CASES

### Topic 12

FLORAL FOLK STATIONERY SET  
DARK BIRD HOUSE TREE DECORATION  
WOODEN HEART CHRISTMAS SCANDINAVIAN  
CHRISTMAS PUDDING TRINKET POT  
4 PEAR BOTANICAL DINNER CANDLES  
FOLKART CLIP ON STARS  
4 LAVENDER BOTANICAL DINNER CANDLES  
4 VANILLA BOTANICAL CANDLES  
MODERN FLORAL STATIONERY SET  
SET OF 4 ROSE BOTANICAL CANDLES

### Topic 13

WHITE HANGING HEART T-LIGHT HOLDER  
ASSORTED COLOUR BIRD ORNAMENT  
ANTIQUE SILVER TEA GLASS ETCHED  
VICTORIAN GLASS HANGING T-LIGHT  
NATURAL SLATE HEART CHALKBOARD  
IVORY DINER WALL CLOCK  
REGENCY CAKESTAND 3 TIER  
HEART OF WICKER LARGE  
SMALL WHITE HEART OF WICKER  
SILVER HANGING T-LIGHT HOLDER

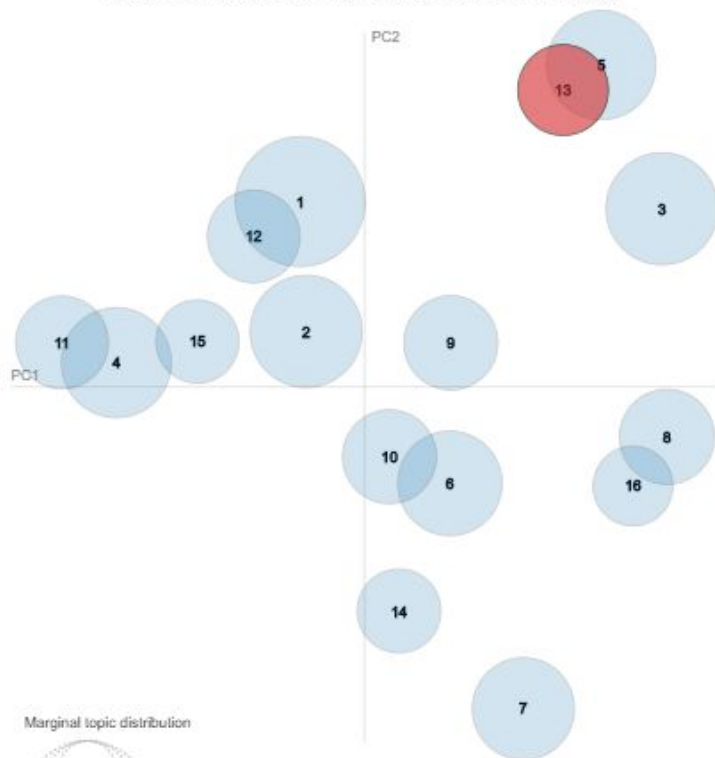
### Topic 14

RED TOADSTOOL LED NIGHT LIGHT  
SUKI SHOULDER BAG  
DOTCOM POSTAGE  
PIZZA PLATE IN BOX  
RECYCLING BAG RETROSPOT  
JUMBO STORAGE BAG SUKI  
PINK REGENCY TEACUP AND SAUCER  
JUMBO BAG WOODLAND ANIMALS  
LARGE CIRCULAR MIRROR MOBILE  
WRAP CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

### Topic 15

HOT WATER BOTTLE KEEP CALM  
HAND WARMER RED POLKA DOT  
HAND WARMER UNION JACK  
HAND WARMER RED LOVE HEART  
HAND WARMER SCOTTY DOG DESIGN  
DOORMAT VINTAGE LEAVES DESIGN  
DOORMAT RED RETROSPOT  
DOORMAT UNION FLAG  
HAND WARMER OWL DESIGN  
DOORMAT KEEP CALM AND COME IN

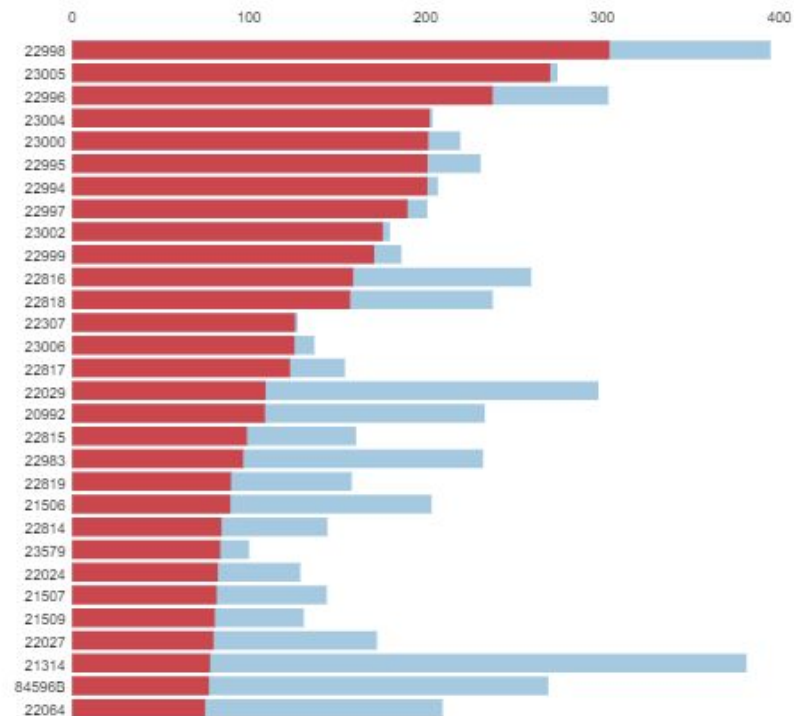
Intertopic Distance Map (via multidimensional scaling)



Marginal topic distribution



Top-30 Most Relevant Terms for Topic 13 (5.2% of tokens)

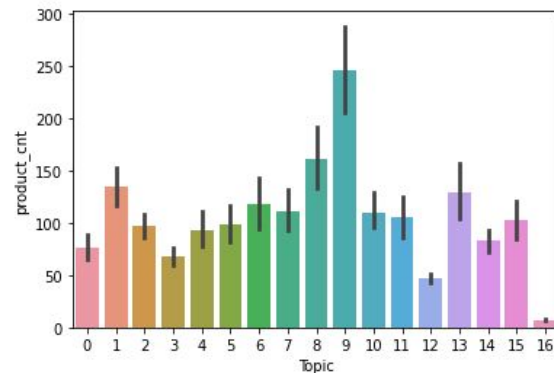
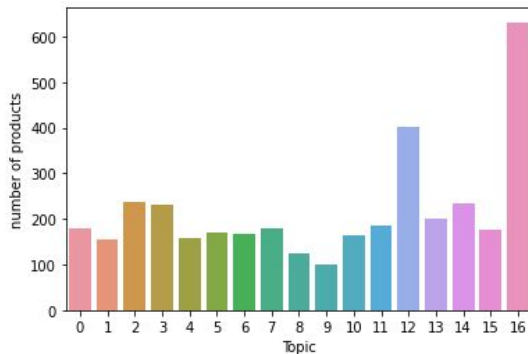
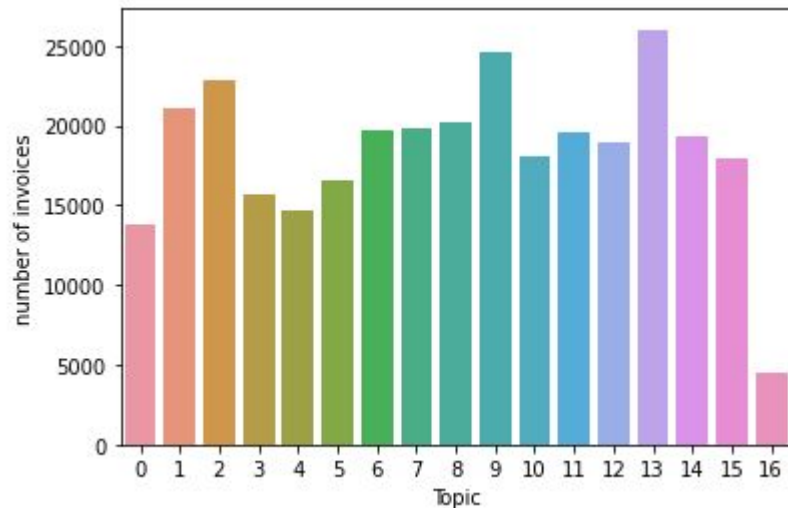


Overall term frequency  
Estimated term frequency within the selected topic

1.  $\text{saliency}(\text{term } w) = \text{frequency}(w) * [\sum_t p(t | w) * \log(p(t | w)/p(t))]$  for topics  $t$ ; see Chuang et. al (2012)
2.  $\text{relevance}(\text{term } w | \text{topic } i) = \lambda * p(w | i) + (1 - \lambda) * p(w | i)/p(w)$ ; see Sievert & Shirley (2014)

# Check topics on purchases and products

- Visualize the number of invoices on topics: topic 16 has the lowest number of invoices
- Visualize the number of products on topics and product\_cnt of products on topics: topic 16 has the most number of products, all of them have very low product\_cnt.

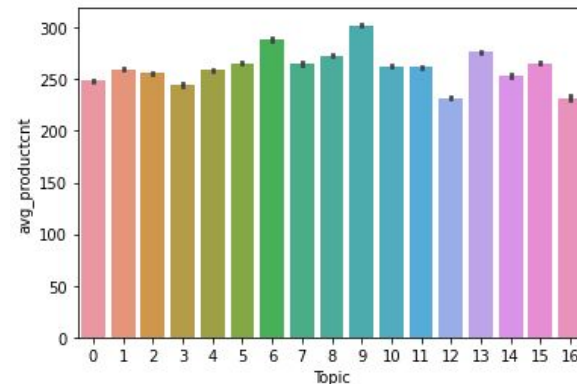
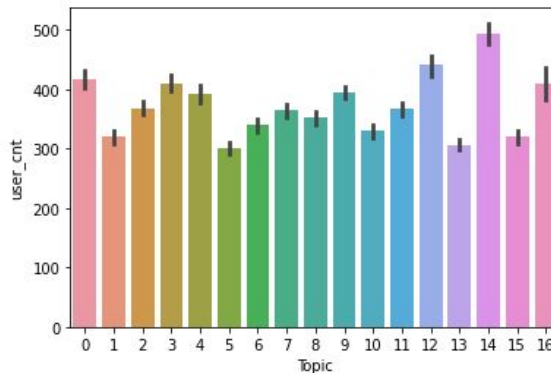
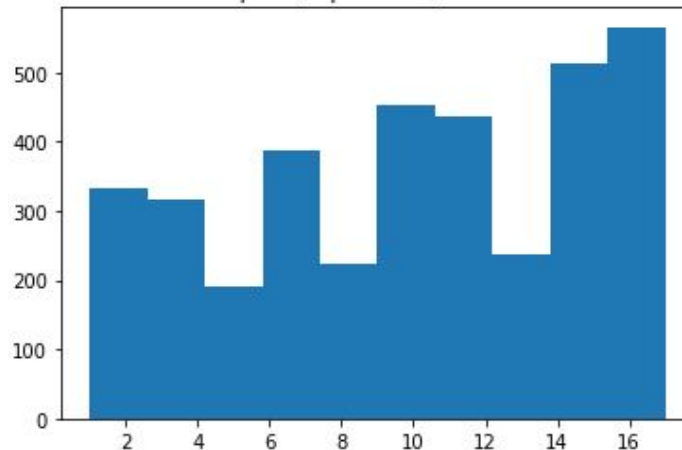


# Check topics on users

- Users selected products from many topics. Topics don't have too much difference on user features (user\_cnt and avg\_productcnt).

=> Purchases, products, user activities are divided widely on all topics, no dominant topic or no too small topic.

Number of topics (of products) that users selected





## Grouping products by topics

Consider products with at least 1 topic, dividing products by range of SumProb:

- High-prob products:  $\text{SumProb} \geq 1e-2$
- Middle-prob products:  $1e-2 > \text{SumProb} \geq 1e-3$
- Low-prob products:  $1e-2 > \text{SumProb} \geq 1e-3$

Visualizing log transformation of probabilities of High/Middle/Low-prob products on topics:

- 415 high-prob products have both high and low probabilities
- 1771 middle-prob products have both high and low probabilities, the number of low probabilities is higher
- 879 low-prob products mainly have low probabilities.

=> Values of probabilities have the same range on all topics.





# Conclusion

- Can generate clusters, corresponding to topics from topic model algorithms. This case uses LDA.
- Purchases, users and products spread widely on topics. No dominant topic, no too small topic.
- Values of probabilities on topics have the same range on all topics -> No need to add weights on topics.

# 5. Recommending

- Content-based recommending from topics
- Graph Memory-based Collaborative Filtering
- Recommending with user history
- The hybrid

## Content-based Recommending from Topics

Mechanism: base on similarity on description information of products:

- Each items are represented as 16-vector of probabilities on topics
- Calculating similarity between items by a distance metric on vectors
  - Euclid\_distance: temporary use this metric. In fact, the selection of distance metric must be considered with the distribution of products on topics. Advantages of euclid distance is not considering order of topics, well reflecting the distance between items in the same topics.
- Recommending items with lowest distance

Recommending products with topic=16 can be wrong, because all probabilities on topics are 0.

	start_code	rec_code	score	start_des	rec_des
0	23344	23344	0.000000	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS
1	23344	23343	0.000019	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	JUMBO BAG VINTAGE CHRISTMAS
2	23344	22910	0.000026	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	PAPER CHAIN KIT VINTAGE CHRISTMAS
3	23344	23313	0.000045	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	VINTAGE CHRISTMAS BUNTING
4	23344	23202	0.000047	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	JUMBO BAG VINTAGE LEAF
5	23344	22086	0.000050	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	PAPER CHAIN KIT 50'S CHRISTMAS

Recommend for StockCode=23344, description='JUMBO bAG 50'S CHRISTMAS'. Distance to itself=0 is in the first line.

	start_code	rec_code	score	start_des	rec_des
0	10002	21769	0.000000e+00	INFLATABLE POLITICAL GLOBE	VINTAGE POST OFFICE CABINET
1	10002	90196B	0.000000e+00	INFLATABLE POLITICAL GLOBE	BLACK GEMSTONE NECKLACE 45CM
2	10002	85146	0.000000e+00	INFLATABLE POLITICAL GLOBE	JARDIN ETCHED GLASS SMALL BELL JAR
3	10002	21278	0.000000e+00	INFLATABLE POLITICAL GLOBE	VINTAGE KITCHEN PRINT PUDDINGS
4	10002	16169P	0.000000e+00	INFLATABLE POLITICAL GLOBE	WRAP GREEN RUSSIAN FOLKART
5	10002	90077	0.000000e+00	INFLATABLE POLITICAL GLOBE	BLACK DIAMOND CLUSTER EARRINGS

Recommend for a product in topic 16 with StockCode=10002. Beside of distance to itself, other items have 0-distance.

# Graph Memory-based Collaborative Filtering

Mechanism: Extract information "People buy x also buy y" - implicit hidden relationship.

Step-by-step:

- Constructing graph
- Calculating the score reflecting relationship between users by similarity function
- Calculating the score reflecting relationship between items and users selected them -> user-item recommending
- Calculate the score reflecting relationship between items -> item-item recommending

I re-write these step by matrix computing on the right.

For more information about the method, check [here](#).

Let  $k_\alpha$  is purchased times of items  $\alpha$ .

Let call  $A$  is history as matrix. if user  $j$  selected item  $\alpha$ :

$$a_{j\alpha} = 1$$

Calculating  $T$  is weights of products  $\alpha$  in history of each user  $j$ :

$$t_{j\alpha} = \frac{a_{j\alpha} k_\alpha^\gamma}{\sum_\beta a_{j\beta} k_\beta^\gamma}$$

Calculating  $H$  includes the weight when recommending  $\alpha$  for  $\beta$ :

$$h_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{k_\alpha^{1-\lambda} k_\beta^\lambda}$$

Calculating  $W$  is item2item matrix when recommending  $\alpha$  for  $\beta$ :

$$w_{\alpha\beta} = h_{\alpha\beta} \sum_j a_{j\alpha} a_{j\beta} t_{j\beta}$$

means:

$$W = H \circ (A^T \cdot (A \circ T))$$

Making Recommendation by  $W$ , larger score is better.

To recommend for all users:

$$R = AW^T$$

While Content-based uses distance to compute score, so that the lower is the better. In contrast, CF computes similarity score directly, thus the higher is the better.

It doesn't meet the challenge of zero-probability vector as Content-based.

	start_code	rec_code	score	start_des	rec_des
0	23344	23344	0.018848	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS
1	23344	23343	0.008916	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	JUMBO BAG VINTAGE CHRISTMAS
2	23344	45013	0.007101	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	FOLDING SHOE TIDY
3	23344	23582	0.005697	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	VINTAGE DOILY JUMBO BAG RED
4	23344	23532	0.005500	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	WALL ART WORK REST AND PLAY
5	23344	23201	0.005070	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	JUMBO BAG ALPHABET

Recommend for StockCode=23344.

Similarity score to itself is the highest, which is in the first line

	start_code	rec_code	score	start_des	rec_des
0	10002	10002	0.005555	INFLATABLE POLITICAL GLOBE	INFLATABLE POLITICAL GLOBE
1	10002	84881	0.002099	INFLATABLE POLITICAL GLOBE	BLUE WIRE SPIRAL CANDLE HOLDER
2	10002	21826	0.001689	INFLATABLE POLITICAL GLOBE	EIGHT PIECE DINOSAUR SET
3	10002	10123C	0.001558	INFLATABLE POLITICAL GLOBE	HEARTS WRAPPING TAPE
4	10002	84745A	0.001276	INFLATABLE POLITICAL GLOBE	PINK HANGING GINGHAM EASTER HEN
5	10002	84745B	0.001276	INFLATABLE POLITICAL GLOBE	BLUE HANGING GINGHAM EASTER HEN

Recommend for a product in topic 16 with StockCode=10002.

Score to itself is still the highest, thus it still has recommending to itself first.

# Recommending with user history

Recommending with user history is helpful to improve personalization ability of system. Instead of recommending from current items only, items which are more related to history of users could have more priority.

The graph memory-based method can compute score of items from history directly. With content-based, this mechanism can be applied either:

- Compute recommending score for all items from each item on history of the user.
- Summarize (getting mean or sum) score to have the final recommending score for the user.

Note that we need to inverse score of content-based to obtain the same logic “higher is better”, then scale values to fixed range.

# The hybrid

- Combining any kind of score, regardless of score from models.
- Manually: After scaling all score to the same range, multiply score with weights and sum all of them.

Recommending  $\alpha$  given  $\beta$ :

$$r_{\alpha}(\beta) = \sum_i w_i * s_i(\alpha, \beta)$$

where  $s_i$  is score of one of previous models.

	start_code	rec_code	score_bytopic	score_bygraph_item	score_bygraph_user	score	start_des	rec_des
0	23344	23344	1.000000	1.000000	0.000000	0.900000	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS
1	23344	23343	0.821380	0.401838	0.000000	0.529471	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	JUMBO BAG VINTAGE CHRISTMAS
2	23344	22910	0.754555	0.004967	0.048553	0.309161	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	PAPER CHAIN KIT VINTAGE CHRISTMAS
3	23344	22086	0.520251	0.088940	0.406638	0.293234	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	PAPER CHAIN KIT 50'S CHRISTMAS
4	23344	23202	0.549560	0.109421	0.000000	0.274534	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	JUMBO BAG VINTAGE LEAF
5	23344	23313	0.569009	0.017765	0.000000	0.236486	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	VINTAGE CHRISTMAS BUNTING

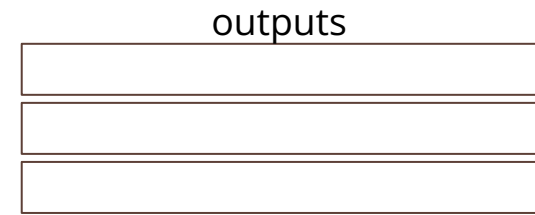
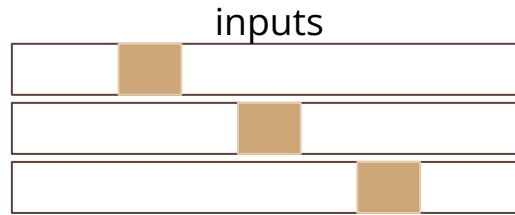
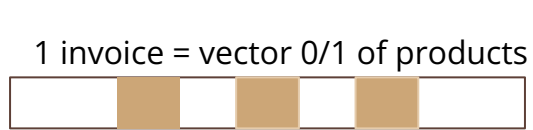
The results of the hybrid considers more than 1 score which comes from different strategies. The example uses  $0.4 * \text{Content-based score} + 0.5 * \text{Graph CF item-item score} + 0.1 * \text{Graph CF user-item score}$

# The hybrid

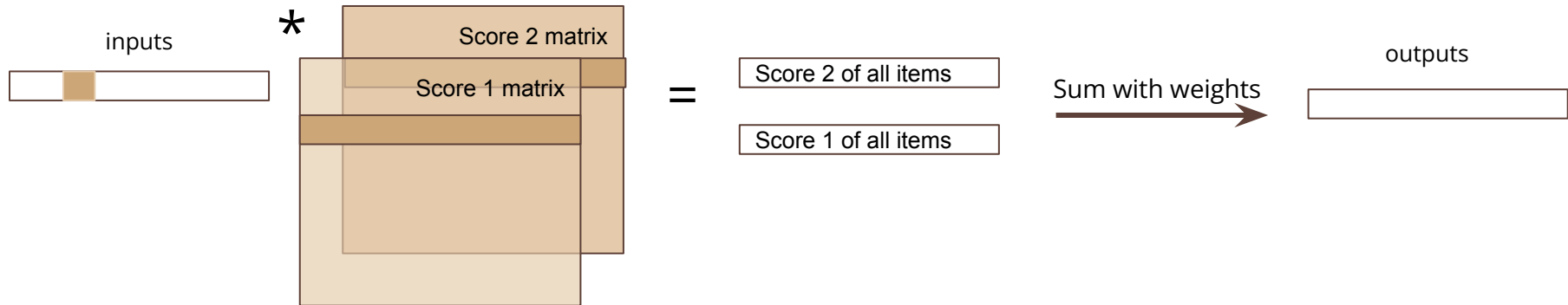
- Training weights: instead of manually assigning values for weights, they can be obtained by learning from data. Input and output of model are generated by purchases (as the figure).
- Neural network: multiclass classification
  - V0 (Simple version): each type of score has a weight, similar to manually hybrid
  - V1: Each pair of score and product has a weights
  - Multi layer model with advanced techniques: BatchNorm, Dropout,...
- Loss function: CrossEntropyLoss, BCEWithLogitLoss are popular for multiclass classification. Mean Square Error (MSE) or Mean Absolute Error (MAE) can be applied also, then the problem becomes linear regression. This makes the model more flexible, since multiclass classification with imbalanced classes (because of >90% invoice length <=50) is challenged.

*I don't have enough time, so that I've not try many types of loss function and optimized the model yet.*





Parsing purchases to data for training models



Explain computational steps in the simple model

# Simple version

The simple model is trained to learn weights of 4 types of score: item-item graph (CF), user-item graph (CF), content-based (CB) and user-item of CB.

CF scores have negative impact on the final score.

	start_code	rec_code	item_graph_score	item_topic_score	user_graph_score	user_topic_score	score	start_des	rec_des
0	22139	23843	0.0	0.885991	0.0	0.990790	0.875275	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	PAPER CRAFT , LITTLE BIRDIE
1	22139	90133	0.0	0.887748	0.0	0.990476	0.875231	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	TEAL/FUSCHIA COL BEAD NECKLACE
2	22139	21736	0.0	0.889435	0.0	0.990855	0.875211	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	GOLD SCROLL GLASS T-LIGHT HOLDER
3	22139	84856S	0.0	0.889321	0.0	0.990839	0.875202	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	SMALL TAHITI BEACH BAG
4	22139	90214Z	0.0	0.887197	0.0	0.990477	0.875141	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	LETTER "Z" BLING KEY RING

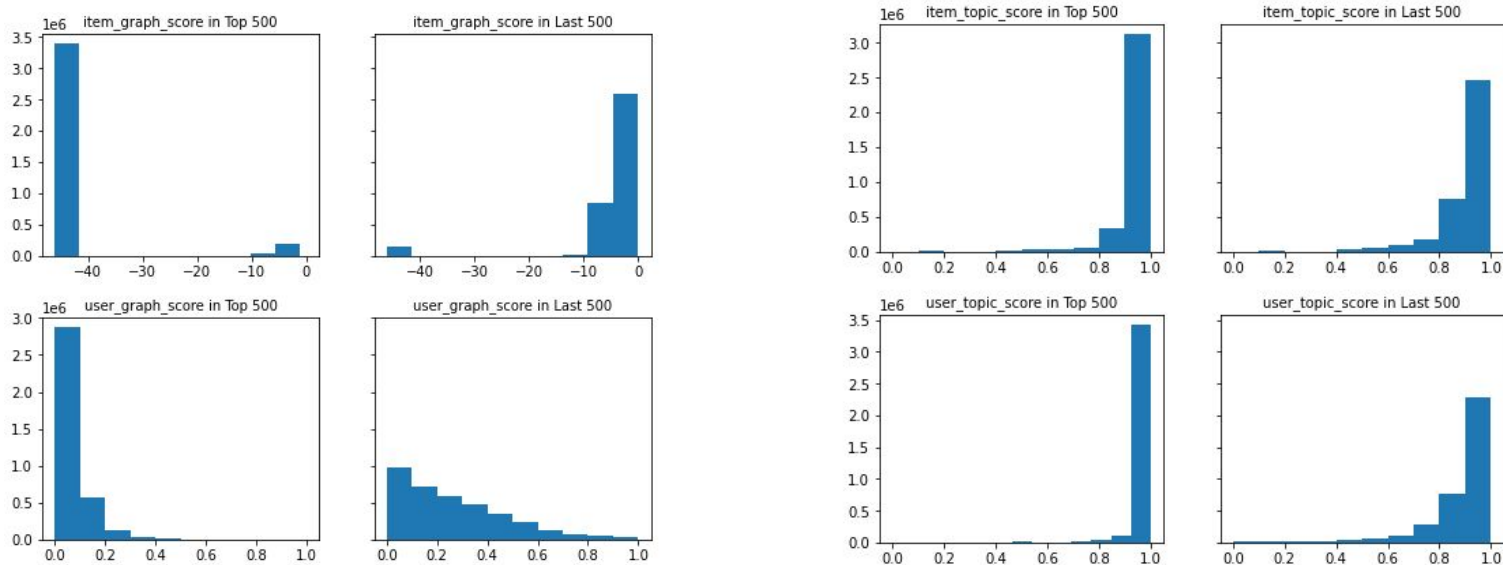
Top score of the model recommending for stock 22139

	start_code	rec_code	item_graph_score	item_topic_score	user_graph_score	user_topic_score	score	start_des	rec_des
0	22139	85099B	0.062929	0.530401	0.365359	0.157267	0.361837	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	JUMBO BAG RED RETROSPOT
1	22139	POST	0.057050	0.441938	0.377080	0.000000	0.405936	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	POSTAGE
2	22139	22720	0.070957	0.446397	0.420483	0.063872	0.414901	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	SET OF 3 CAKE TINS PANTRY DESIGN
3	22139	22960	0.075113	0.466284	0.397774	0.098664	0.428121	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	JAM MAKING SET WITH JARS
4	22139	22139	1.000000	1.000000	0.968411	0.847262	0.429055	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC

Last score of the model recommending for stock 22139

Visualizing histogram of all score in top 500 recommending and all score in last 500 recommending of all items:

- High CB score (topic\_score) place on top 500, High CF score place on last 500.



## Check the example case StockCode=23344

Recommend for  
StockCode=23344

	start_code	rec_code	score	start_des	rec_des
0	23344	22220	0.562569	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	CAKE STAND LOVEBIRD 2 TIER WHITE
1	23344	21555	0.556116	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	CERAMIC STRAWBERRY TRINKET TRAY
2	23344	22042	0.555378	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	CHRISTMAS CARD SINGING ANGEL
3	23344	21189	0.555149	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	WHITE HONEYCOMB PAPER GARLAND
4	23344	23070	0.554874	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	EDWARDIAN HEART PHOTO FRAME
5	23344	46776D	0.554805	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	WOVEN SUNSET CUSHION COVER

Recommend for  
StockCode=23344 with  
CustomerID= 14911

	start_code	rec_code	score	start_des	rec_des
0	23344	90199B	1.169672	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	5 STRAND GLASS NECKLACE AMETHYST
1	23344	21655	1.169275	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	HANGING RIDGE GLASS T-LIGHT HOLDER
2	23344	90027D	1.168822	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	GLASS BEAD HOOP EARRINGS AMETHYST
3	23344	90134	1.168603	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	OLD ROSE COMBO BEAD NECKLACE
4	23344	90013B	1.168575	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	BLACK VINTAGE EARRINGS
5	23344	23603	1.168435	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	SET 10 CARD KRAFT REINDEER 17084

# Version 1

The simple model is trained to learn weights of 4 types of score: item-item graph (CF), user-item graph (CF), content-based (CB) and user-item of CB.

CF scores have high positive impact on the final score.

	start_code	rec_code	item_graph_score	item_topic_score	user_graph_score	user_topic_score	score	start_des	rec_des
0	22139	22633	0.105268	0.932371	0.283248	0.670111	1.0	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	HAND WARMER UNION JACK
1	22139	22563	0.162723	0.893098	0.240241	0.975546	1.0	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	HAPPY STENCIL CRAFT
2	22139	20754	0.165542	0.890693	0.254511	0.991168	1.0	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	RETROSPOT RED WASHING UP GLOVES
3	22139	22494	0.108484	0.885568	0.221975	0.979264	1.0	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	EMERGENCY FIRST AID TIN
4	22139	82600	0.114497	0.890245	0.320297	0.964981	1.0	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	NO SINGING METAL SIGN

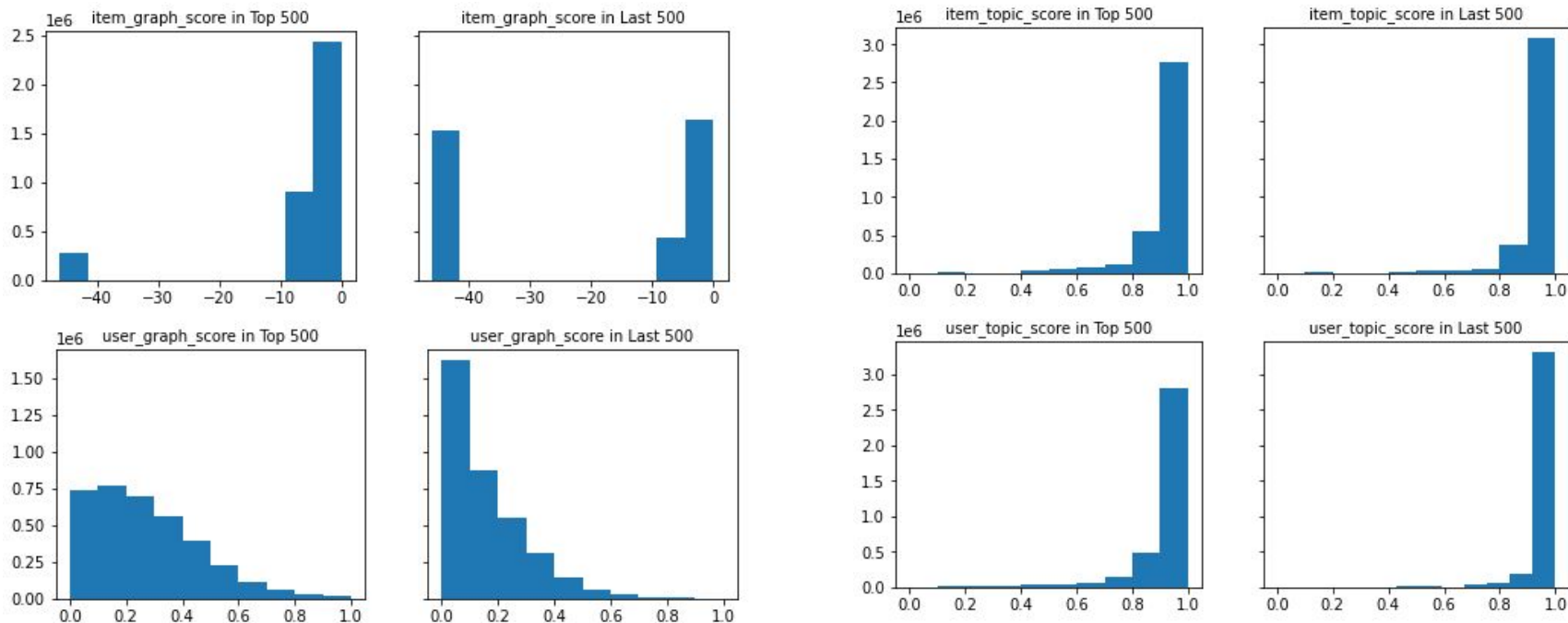
Top score of the model recommending for stock 22139

	start_code	rec_code	item_graph_score	item_topic_score	user_graph_score	user_topic_score	score	start_des	rec_des
0	22139	84527	0.000000	0.886669	0.052293	0.990425	5.612948e-20	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	FLAMES SUNGLASSES PINK LENSES
1	22139	37489A	0.012163	0.886086	0.064951	0.991523	5.840373e-20	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	YELLOW/PINK FLOWER DESIGN BIG MUG
2	22139	23311	0.148495	0.887868	0.388875	0.935223	6.012289e-20	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	VINTAGE CHRISTMAS STOCKING
3	22139	23414	0.078011	0.896558	0.244140	0.996642	6.045452e-20	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	ZINC BOX SIGN HOME
4	22139	23436	0.033786	0.901022	0.293640	0.986571	6.229080e-20	RETROSPOT TEA SET CERAMIC 11 PC	GIFT BAG LARGE VINTAGE CHRISTMAS

Last score of the model recommending for stock 22139

Visualizing histogram of all score in top 500 recommending and all score in last 500 recommending of all items:

- High CF score (topic\_score) place on top 500, High CB score place on last 500.



## Check the example case StockCode=23344

Recommend for  
StockCode=23344

	start_code	rec_code	score	start_des	rec_des
0	23344	84824	0.022645	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	DANISH ROSE UMBRELLA STAND
1	23344	78033	0.018501	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	FLAG OF ST GEORGE CHAIR
2	23344	21412	0.015623	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	VINTAGE GOLD TINSEL REEL
3	23344	23522	0.015461	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	WALL ART DOG AND BALL
4	23344	90177E	0.015369	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	DROP DIAMANTE EARRINGS GREEN
5	23344	22910	0.015251	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	PAPER CHAIN KIT VINTAGE CHRISTMAS

Recommend for  
StockCode=23344 with  
CustomerID= 14911

	start_code	rec_code	score	start_des	rec_des
0	23344	22372	0.032912	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	AIRLINE BAG VINTAGE WORLD CHAMPION
1	23344	85049H	0.031808	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	URBAN BLACK RIBBONS
2	23344	22749	0.030397	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	FELTCRAFT PRINCESS CHARLOTTE DOLL
3	23344	84992	0.030142	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	72 SWEETHEART FAIRY CAKE CASES
4	23344	21379	0.030087	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	CAMPOR WOOD PORTOBELLO MUSHROOM
5	23344	22791	0.030016	JUMBO BAG 50'S CHRISTMAS	T-LIGHT GLASS FLUTED ANTIQUE

# Conclusion

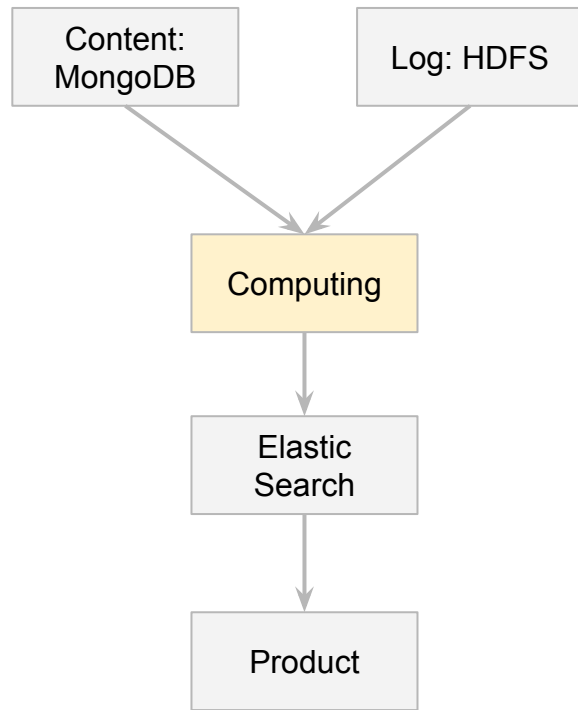
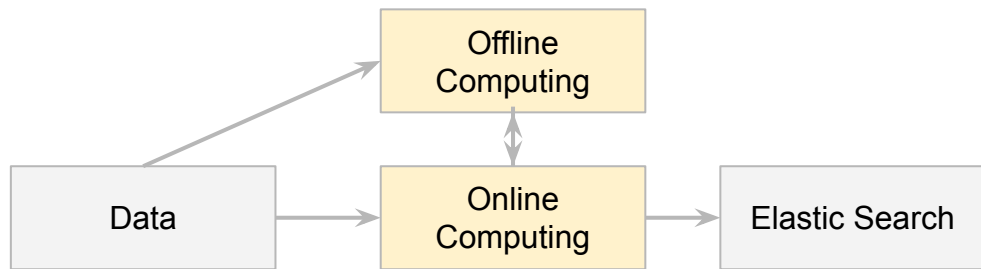
- Good clusters from topics lead to good results on content-based.
- With graph memory-based Collaborative Filtering, item-item recommending brings good results as well.
- The hybrid has many advantages such as utilizing as much as models or strategies, combining analysis results like prioritizing low product\_cnt items
- The hybrid also has many problems and results seem to be difficult to explain by common sense. It need to be carefully designed and tuned.

=> The hybrid also unfolds many further works.



# 6. System design

- Content: stable.
- Log: large size, fast update
- Output of computing: basic schema, need fast query
- Offline computing: computing daily, weekly, monthly, includes feature engineering, training, evaluating...
- Online computing: fast computing, even realtime or semi-realtime, catch update of log and content.



# Summary

- Given the task and target, this presentation shows an overview of data, how to exploit it and techniques and models to process the data. The presentation also briefly overview of recommender system methods in research.
- The beginning assumptions are simple, so these works the necessary starting step to further development.
- Limitation: fully evaluation is missing and system design is still basic.