

Problem: identifying movies that users will like is challenging

Hypothesis: If a user likes Movie A, they will also like movies similar to Movie A based on taggings and genres.

Solution: Develop a content-based recommender tool to identify similar movies.

Hypothesis: A movie's rating will be correlated with its features.

Solution: Use regression to predict ratings based on movie features.

Hypothesis: A movie can be recommended based on the preferences of similar users.

Solution: Use matrix factorization and SVD algorithm to predict ratings based on user ratings.

MovieLens 20M Dataset

- MovieLens is run by GroupLens, a research lab at the University of Minnesota. By using MovieLens, you will help GroupLens develop new experimental tools and interfaces for data exploration and recommendation. MovieLens is noncommercial, and free of advertisements.
- The tag genome encodes how strongly movies exhibit particular properties represented by tags (atmospheric, thoughtprovoking, realistic, etc.). The tag genome was computed using a machine learning algorithm on user-contributed content including tags, ratings, and textual reviews.
- genome scores: relevancy of a given tag to a movie
- genome_tags: tag descriptions and tag_ids
- links: includes IMDb and TMDB ids to bring in other data
- movies: includes movie id, title (year), and genre tags
- ratings: user reviews out of 5
- tags: user-generated tags, including user_id, movie_id and tag

Sources: Kaggle, MovieLens.com, Surprise package

movies

movield title genres

1 Toy Story (1995) Adventure | Animation | Children | Comedy | Fantasy

2 Jumanji (1995) Adventure | Children | Fantasy

3 Grumpier Old Men (1995) Comedy | Romance

4 Waiting to Exhale (1995) Comedy | Drama | Romance

5 Father of the Bride Part II (1995)Comedy

genome_tags

es)
ury

ratings

userId	movield	rating	timestamp
1	1	4.0	964982703
1	3	4.0	964981247
1	6	4.0	964982224
1	47	5.0	964983815
1	50	5.0	964982931

genome_scores

movield	taglo	l relevance
1	1	0.02500
1	2	0.02500
1	3	0.05775
1	4	0.09675
1	5	0.14675

tags

userId	movield	tag	timestamp
2	60756	funny	1445714994
2	60756	Highly quotable	1445714996
2	60756	will ferrell	1445714992
2	89774	Boxing story	1445715207
2	89774	MMA	1445715200

Key Data Challenges & Pre-processing

Problem: genres are pipe-delimited in a single string. They will need to be parsed to use them in a feature matrix.



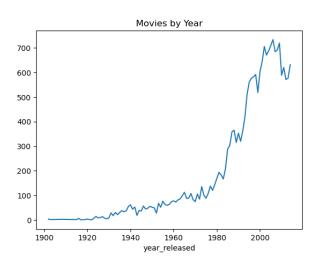
Problem: tags are included as observations, rather than variables. They will need to be pivoted to combine them into a feature matrix.

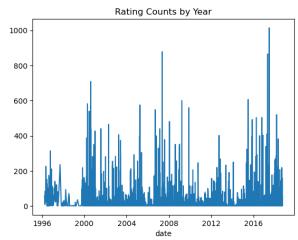


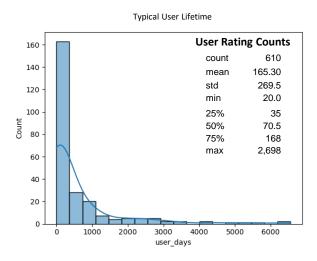
```
cleaned_movies = movies.assign(genres=movies['genres'].str.split('|')).explode('genres')
cleaned\_movies['year\_released'] = cleaned\_movies['title'].str.extract(r'\(((\d{4})\)')')
cleaned movies['year released'] = pd.to numeric(cleaned movies['year released'], errors='coerce')
cleaned_movies = links.merge(cleaned_movies, on='movieId', how='outer')
cleaned_movies = cleaned_movies[['imdbId', 'title','year_released', 'genres']]
cleaned movies.set index('imdbId', inplace=True)
cleaned movies.head()
   title year_released genres
imdbId
114709 Toy Story (1995)
                            1995.0 Adventure
114709 Toy Story (1995)
                            1995.0 Animation
114709 Toy Story (1995)
114709 Toy Story (1995)
                            1995.0 Comedy
114709 Toy Story (1995)
```



Exploratory Data Analysis







Develop a content-based recommender tool to identify similar movies



Create feature matrix

one-hot encode genres

```
one_hot = pd.get_dummies(cleaned_movies['genres'],
dtype=float)
cleaned_movies = cleaned_movies.drop('genres',axis = 1)
cleaned_movies = cleaned_movies.join(one_hot)
cleaned_movies = cleaned_movies.groupby(['title']).max()
```

year released Action Adventure Animation Children ... Thriller War Western title '71 (2014) 2014.0 1.0 0.0 0.0 1.0 1.0 'Hellboy': The Seeds of Creation (2004) 2004.0 1.0 1.0 0.0 0.0 ... 0.0 0.0 0.0 'Round Midnight (1986) 1986.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 'Salem's Lot (2004) 2004.0 1.0 0.0 'Til There Was You (1997) 1997.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 ... 0.0 0.0

merging with scaled tag genome scores

```
from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler

scaler = StandardScaler()
scaled_features = scaler.fit_transform(pivoted_movie_tags)
scaled_tags = pd.DataFrame(scaled_features,
index=pivoted_movie_tags.index,
columns=pivoted_movie_tags.columns)
scaled_tags.head()
```

title	Action	Adventure	wwii	zombies
'71 (2014)	1.0	0.0	 0.340927	-0.152156
'Hellboy': The Seeds of Creation (2004)	1.0	1.0	 0.000000	0.000000
'Round Midnight (1986)	0.0	0.0	 -0.278982	-0.167342
'Salem's Lot (2004)	0.0	0.0	 0.000000	0.000000
'Til There Was You (1997)	0.0	0.0	 -0.261763	-0.161268

Use cosine similarity matrix to identify similar movies

```
from sklearn.metrics.pairwise import cosine_similarity

# Compute the cosine similarity matrix
similarity_matrix = cosine_similarity(data)
similarity_matrix
```

```
def recommend_movies(movie_title, num_movies=5):
    # Ensure the movie_title exists in the dataset
    if movie_title not in data.index:
        return "Movie title not found in the dataset."

# Find the row index of the movie
    movie_idx = list(data.index).index(movie_title)

# Get similarity values with other movies
    similarity_scores = list(enumerate(similarity_matrix[movie_idx]))

# Sort the movies based on the similarity scores
    similarity_scores = sorted(similarity_scores, key=lambda x: x[1], reverse=True)

# Get the scores of the top-n most similar movies, excluding the first one (itself)
    most_similar_movies = similarity_scores[1:num_movies+1]

# Get movie titles for the most similar movies
    movie_titles = [data.index[i[0]] for i in most_similar_movies]
    return movie_titles
```

```
recommend_movies('Toy Story (1995)', 10)
['Toy Story 2 (1999)',
'Monsters, Inc. (2001)',
'Toy Story 3 (2010)',
"Bug's Life, A (1998)",
'Up (2009)',
'Ice Age (2002)',
'Cars (2006)',
'Incredibles, The (2004)',
'Finding Nemo (2003)',
'Monsters University (2013)']
```

```
recommend_movies('Godfather, The (1972)', 10)
['Godfather: Part II, The (1974)',
'Goodfellas (1990)',
'Scarface (1983)',
'On the Waterfront (1954)',
'Departed, The (2006)',
'Road to Perdition (2002)',
'Raging Bull (1980)',
'Taxi Driver (1976)',
'Scarface (1932)',
'Rocco and His Brothers (Rocco e i suoi fratelli) (1960)']
```

```
recommend_movies('Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, The (2001)', 10) ['Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers, The (2002)', 'Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King, The (2003)', 'Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey, The (2012)', 'Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug, The (2013)', 'The Hobbit: The Bestle of the Five Armies (2014)', 'Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope (1977)', 'Willow (1988)', 'Willow (1988)', 'Star Wars: Episode V - The Empire Strikes Back (1980)', 'Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi (1983)']
```

```
recommend_movies('Inception (2010)', 10)
['Memento (2000)',
'Usual Suspects, The (1995)',
'Predestination (2014)',
'Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (2004)',
'Matrix, The (1999)',
'Prestige, The (2006)',
'Interstellar (2014)',
'Donnie Darko (2001)',
'Mr. Nobody (2009)',
'Looper (2012)']
```

Using ML models to predict ratings



Content-based Filtering Recommendation System

- This Linear Regression model aims to predict ratings based solely on a movie's characteristics. In this implementation, the only features considered are tag scores and genres.
- Other features could be used to help improve the accuracy of the model. However, the algorithm does have inherent limitations which make it a less desirable candidate for solving this problem.

```
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
model_data = data.merge(processed_ratings, on='title', how='outer')
model_data = model_data[model_data['rating'].notna()]
X = model data.drop(['userId', 'title', 'rating'], axis=1)
y = model_data['rating']
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size=0.2, random_state=42)
# Initialize and train the model
model = LinearRegression()
model.fit(X_train, y_train)
# Predict ratings on the test set
y_pred = model.predict(X_test)
# Evaluate the model
rmse = np.sqrt(mean_squared_error(y_test, y_pred))
print(f"RMSE: {rmse}")
RMSE: 0.9294030117250892
```

Collaborative Filtering Recommendation System

- Collaborative filtering attempts to recommend items based on the preferences of similar users.
- Surprise is a Python scikit for building and analyzing recommender systems that deal with explicit rating data.
- The first algorithm is the Singular Value Decomposition model, which is a matrix factorization technique. This approach performed the best in terms of minimizing the RMSE.
- The second algorithm from this package was the KNN algorithm – this performed a bit worse.

```
ratings_matrix = ratings.pivot(index='userId', columns='movieId', values='rating')
from surprise import SVD, KNNBasic, KNNWithMeans, SVDpp, NMF, BaselineOnly, Dataset, Reader
from surprise.model_selection import train_test_split
from surprise import accuracy
sim options = {
    'name': 'cosine',
    'user_based': True
reader = Reader(rating_scale=(1, 5))
data = Dataset.load_from_df(ratings[['userId', 'movieId', 'rating']], reader)
trainset, testset = train_test_split(data, test_size=0.25)
algo = SVD()
algo.fit(trainset)
predictions = algo.test(testset)
accuracy.rmse(predictions)
RMSE: 0.876
algo = KNNBasic(k=40, sim_options=sim_options)
algo.fit(trainset)
predictions = algo.test(testset)
accuracy.rmse(predictions)
Computing the cosine similarity matrix...
Done computing similarity matrix.
RMSE: 0.9783
```

Key Data Challenges & Next Steps

ssue



The dataset is large: $^{\sim}10,000$ movies and 1,100 tags. To feed the feature matrix into a matrix factorization model, more memory and compute is needed.



Genome tags are unprocessed, including very similar tags differentiated by typos or extra text. When put into a feature matrix, this could have the effect of overweighting a tag when calculating similarity





Tags may or may not include principal cast and crew (directors, writers, etc.). These are likely correlated with user preferences but missing from the current feature matrix.