

# Latent Factor Recommender System

Mining of Massive Datasets  
Leskovec, Rajaraman, and Ullman  
Stanford University

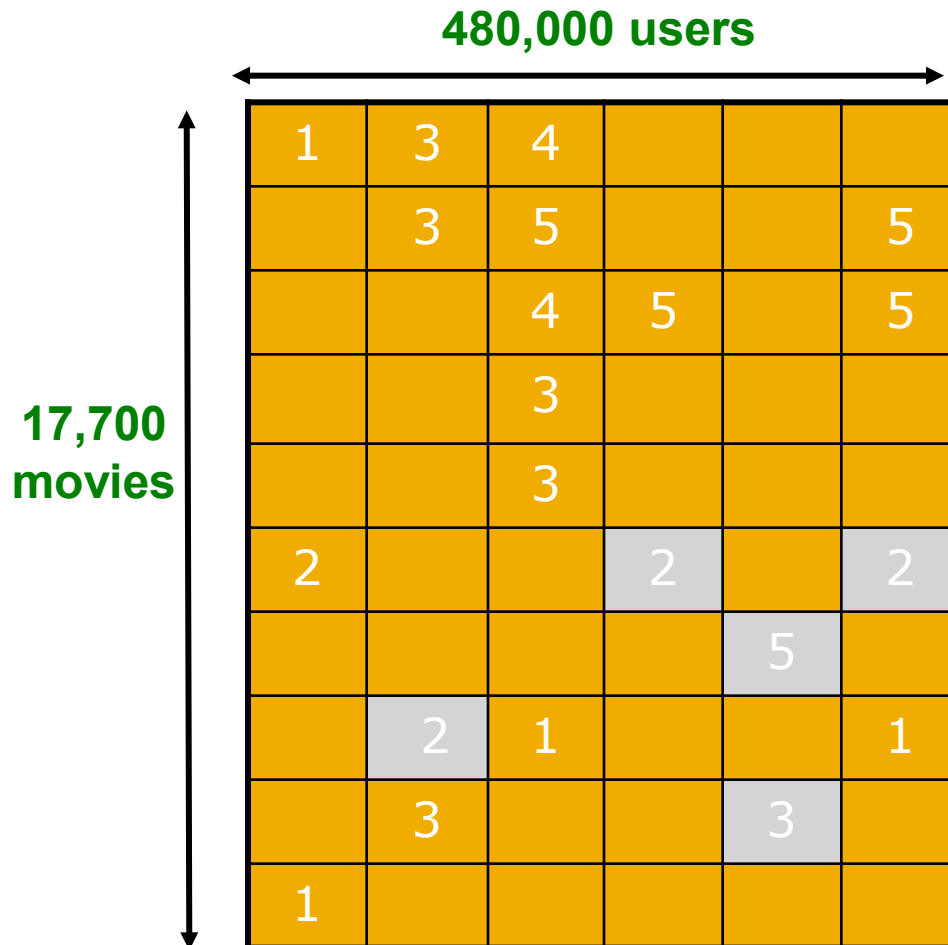


# Recommendations via Optimization

- **Goal: Make good recommendations**
  - Quantify goodness using **RMSE**:  
**Lower RMSE  $\Rightarrow$  better recommendations**
  - Want to make good recommendations on items that user has not yet seen. **Can't really do this!**
  - **Let's set build a system such that it works well on known (user, item) ratings**  
And **hope** the system will also predict well the **unknown ratings**

1	3	4			
	3	5			5
		4	5		5
		3			
		3			
2				?	?
				?	
	2	1			?
	3			?	
1					

# The Netflix Utility Matrix $R$



We want our system to predict well the  
hidden (known) ratings

# Latent Factor Models

**SVD:**  $A = U \Sigma V^T$

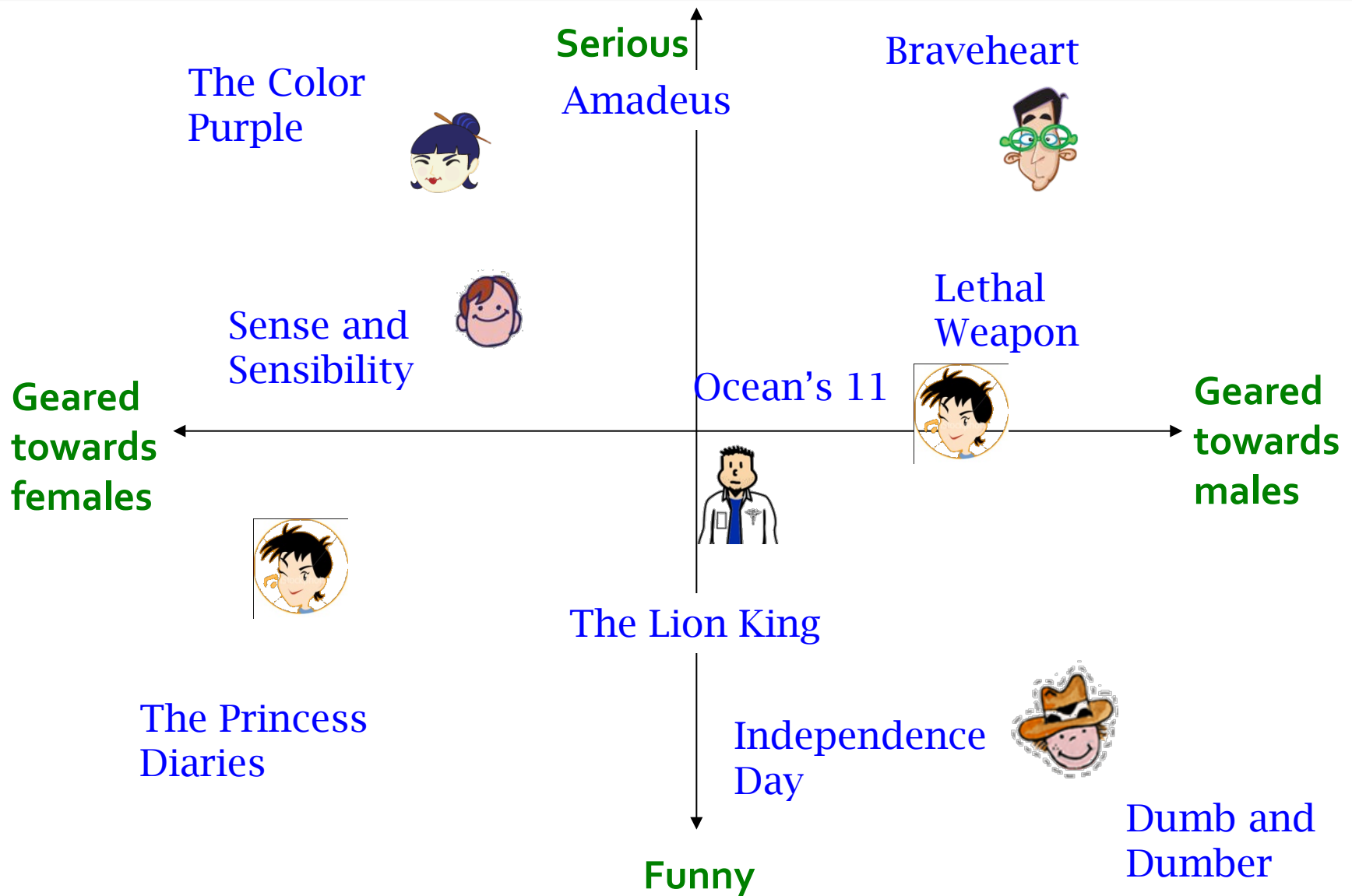
- “SVD” on Netflix data:  $R \approx Q \cdot P^T$

The diagram shows the matrix factorization process:

- Matrix R (Rating Matrix):** A 6x10 matrix with rows labeled 'items' and columns labeled 'users'. It contains numerical ratings.
- Matrix Q (User Factor Matrix):** A 6x3 matrix with rows labeled 'items' and columns labeled 'k factors'. It contains numerical factors for each user.
- Matrix P<sup>T</sup> (Product Matrix):** A 3x10 matrix with columns labeled 'users' and rows labeled 'k factors'. It contains numerical factors for each item.
- Approximation:** The matrix R is approximated by the product of Q and P<sup>T</sup>, indicated by the symbol  $\approx$ .

- For now let's assume we can approximate the rating matrix  $R$  as a product of "thin"  $Q \cdot P^T$ 
  - $R$  has missing entries but let's ignore that for now!
    - Basically, we will want the reconstruction error to be small on known ratings and we don't care about the values on the missing ones

# Latent Factor Models (e.g., SVD)



# Ratings as Products of Factors

- How to estimate the missing rating of user  $x$  for item  $i$ ?

users

items

1		3			5			5		4	
		5	4	?	4			2	1	3	
2	4		1	2		3		4	3	5	
	2	4		5			4			2	
		4	3	4	2					2	5
1		3		3			2			4	

≈

$$\hat{r}_{xi} = q_i \cdot p_x^T$$

$$= \sum_k q_{ik} \cdot p_{xk}$$

$q_i$  = row  $i$  of  $Q$   
 $p_x$  = column  $x$  of  $P^T$

items

.1	-.4	.2
-.5	.6	.5
-.2	.3	.5
1.1	2.1	.3
-.7	2.1	-2
-1	.7	.3

$k$  factors

$Q$

$k$  factors

users

1.1	-.2	.3	.5	-2	-.5	.8	-.4	.3	1.4	2.4	-.9
-.8	.7	.5	1.4	.3	-1	1.4	2.9	-.7	1.2	-.1	1.3
2.1	-.4	.6	1.7	2.4	.9	-.3	.4	.8	.7	-.6	.1

$P^T$

# Ratings as Products of Factors

- How to estimate the missing rating of user  $x$  for item  $i$ ?

users

items

1		3			5			5		4	
		5	4	?	4			2	1	3	
2	4		1	2		3		4	3	5	
	2	4		5			4			2	
		4	3	4	2					2	5
1		3		3			2			4	

≈

$$\hat{r}_{xi} = q_i \cdot p_x^T$$

$$= \sum_f q_{if} \cdot p_{xf}$$

$q_i$  = row  $i$  of  $Q$   
 $p_x$  = column  $x$  of  $P^T$

items

$f$  factors

$Q$

.1	-.4	.2
-.5	.6	.5
-.2	.3	.5
1.1	2.1	.3
-.7	2.1	-2
-1	.7	.3

$f$  factors

users

$P^T$

1.1	-.2	.3	.5	-2	-.5	.8	-.4	.3	1.4	2.4	-.9
-.8	.7	.5	1.4	.3	-1	1.4	2.9	-.7	1.2	-.1	1.3
2.1	-.4	.6	1.7	2.4	.9	-.3	.4	.8	.7	-.6	.1

# Ratings as Products of Factors

- How to estimate the missing rating of user  $x$  for item  $i$ ?

users

items

1		3			5			5		4	
		5	4	2.4	4			2	1	3	
2	4		1	2		3		4	3	5	
	2	4		5			4			2	
		4	3	4	2					2	5
1		3		3			2			4	

≈

$$\hat{r}_{xi} = q_i \cdot p_x^T$$

$$= \sum_f q_{if} \cdot p_{xf}$$

$q_i$  = row  $i$  of  $Q$   
 $p_x$  = column  $x$  of  $P^T$

items

$f$  factors

$Q$

.1	-.4	.2
-.5	.6	.5
-.2	.3	.5
1.1	2.1	.3
-.7	2.1	-2
-1	.7	.3

$f$  factors

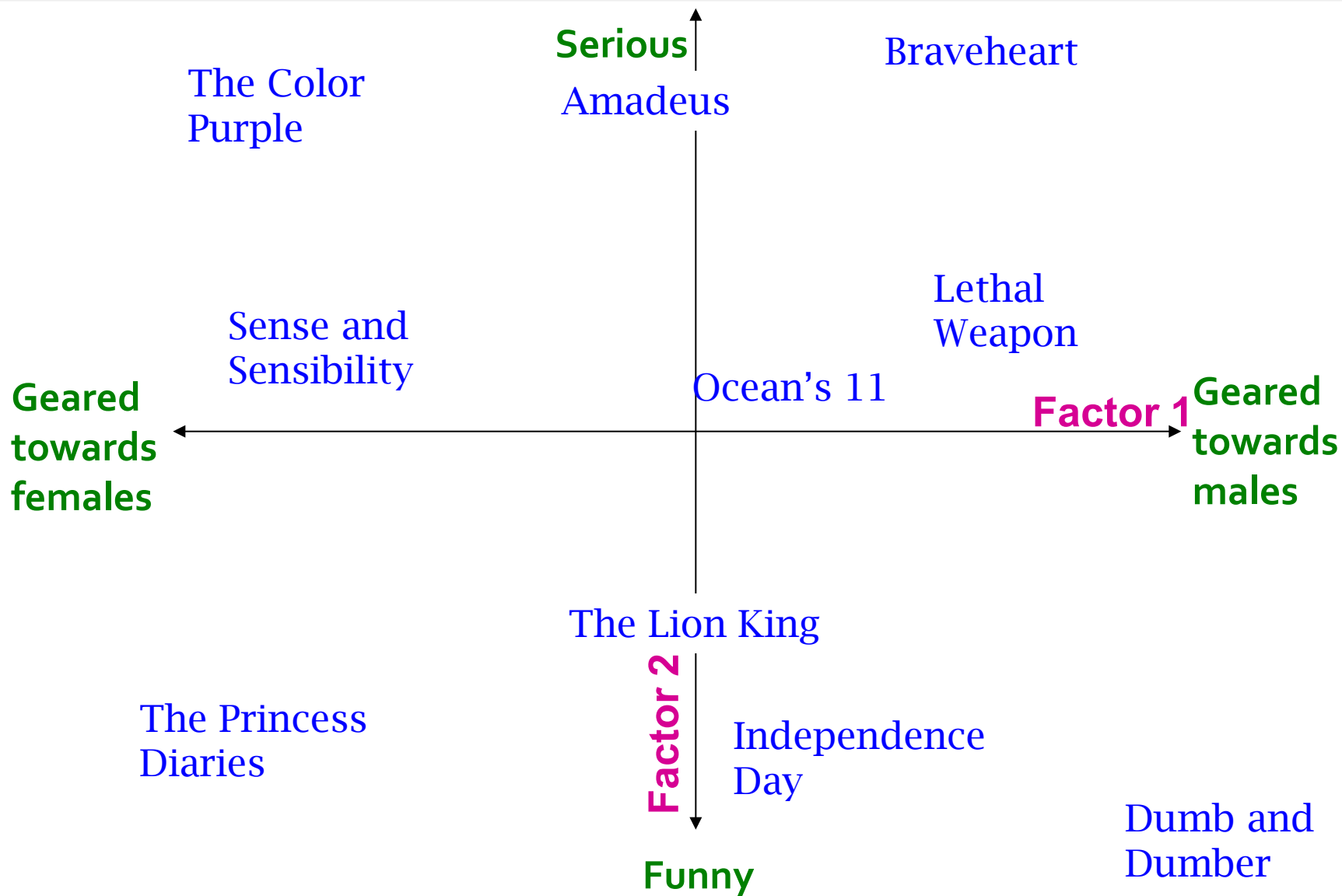
users

$P^T$

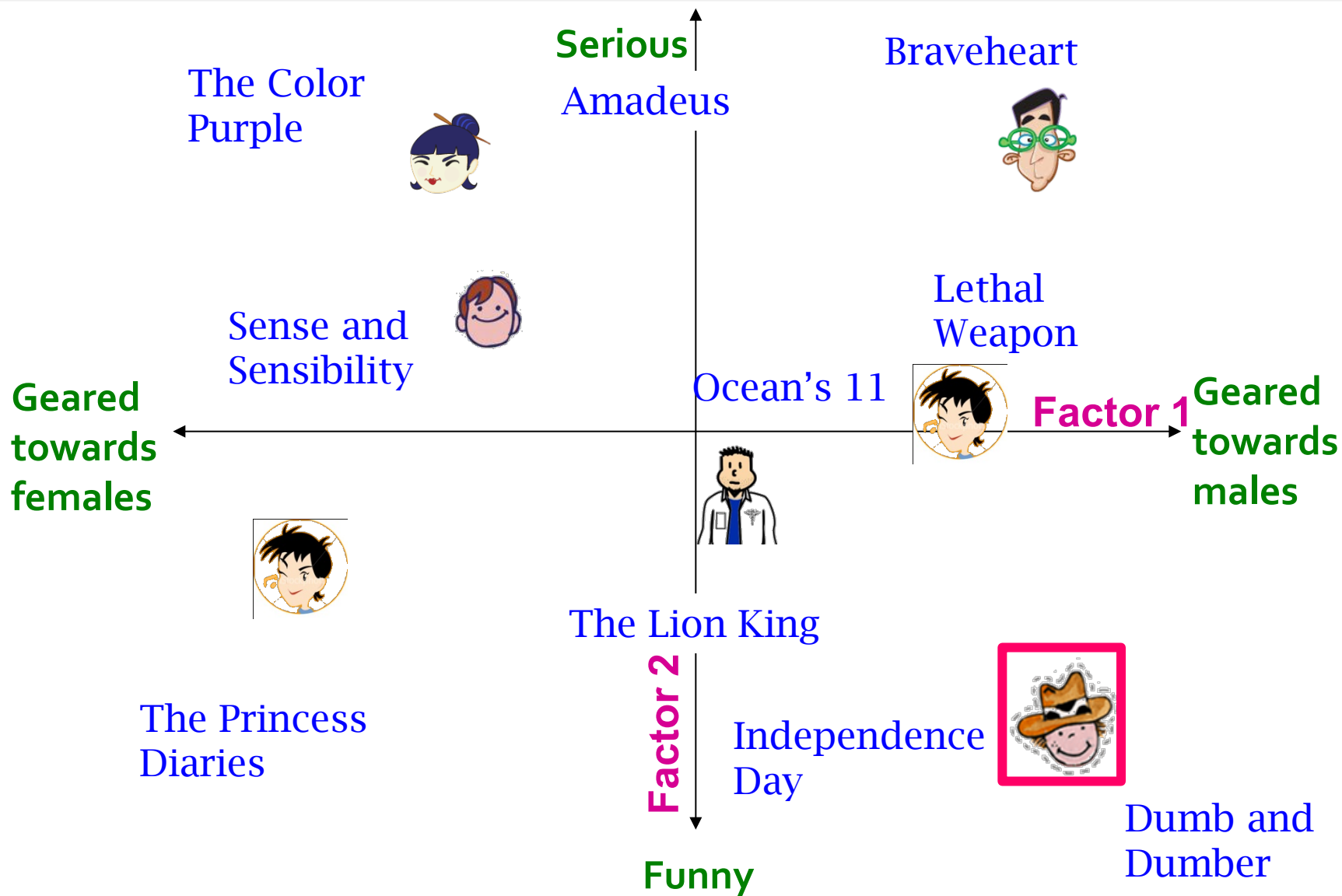
1.1	-.2	.3	.5	-2	-.5	.8	-.4	.3	1.4	2.4	-.9
-.8	.7	.5	1.4	.3	-1	1.4	2.9	-.7	1.2	-.1	1.3
2.1	-.4	.6	1.7	2.4	.9	-.3	.4	.8	.7	-.6	.1



# Latent Factor Models



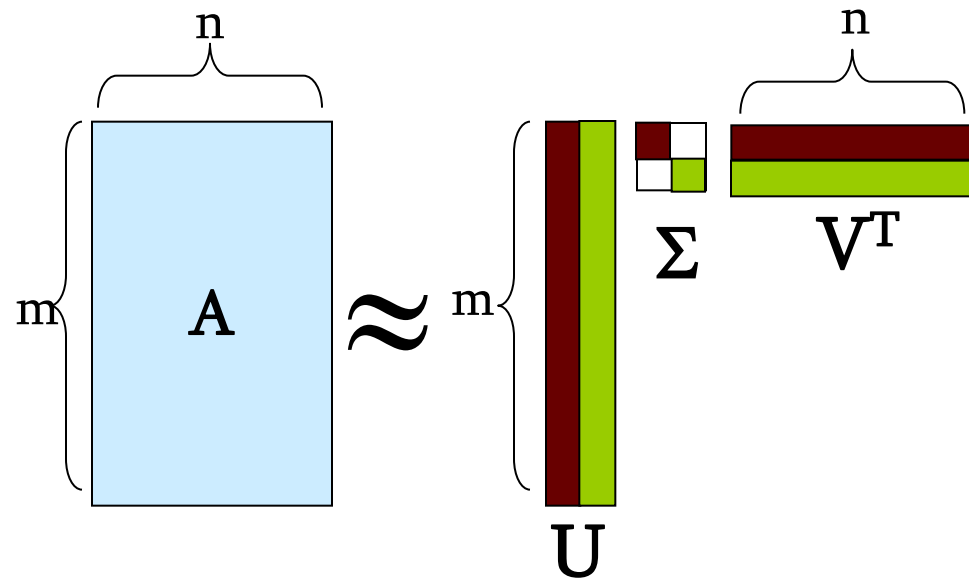
# Latent Factor Models



# Recap: SVD

## ■ Remember SVD:

- **A**: Input data matrix
- **U**: Left singular vecs
- **V**: Right singular vecs
- $\Sigma$ : Singular values



## ■ So in our case:

**“SVD” on Netflix data:  $R \approx Q \cdot P^T$**

$$A = R, \quad Q = U, \quad P^T = \Sigma V^T$$

$$\hat{r}_{xi} = q_i \cdot p_x^T$$

# SVD: More good stuff

- We already know that SVD gives minimum reconstruction error (Sum of Squared Errors):

$$\min_{U,V,\Sigma} \sum_{ij \in A} (A_{ij} - [U\Sigma V^T]_{ij})^2$$

- Note two things:
  - SSE and RMSE are monotonically related:
    - $RMSE = \frac{1}{c} \sqrt{SSE}$  Great news: SVD is minimizing RMSE
  - **Complication:** The sum in SVD error term is over all entries (no-rating is interpreted as zero-rating). But our  $\mathbf{R}$  has missing entries!

# Latent Factor Models

The diagram illustrates the matrix factorization process. It shows three matrices:

- users** (6x10 matrix, yellow cells):
 

1		3			5			5		4	
		5	4			4			2	1	3
2	4		1	2		3		4	3	5	
	2	4		5			4			2	
		4	3	4	2					2	5
1		3		3			2			4	
- factors** (6x3 matrix, labeled  $Q$ ):
 

.1	-.4	.2
-.5	.6	.5
-.2	.3	.5
1.1	2.1	.3
-.7	2.1	-2
-1	.7	.3
- users** (6x12 matrix, labeled  $P^T$ ):
 

1.1	-.2	.3	.5	-2	-.5	.8	-.4	.3	1.4	2.4	-.9
-.8	.7	.5	1.4	.3	-1	1.4	2.9	-.7	1.2	-.1	1.3
2.1	-.4	.6	1.7	2.4	.9	-.3	.4	.8	.7	-.6	.1

The first two matrices are connected by a tilde symbol ( $\sim$ ), indicating their relationship. The third matrix is the product of the first two.

- **SVD isn't defined when entries are missing!**
- **Use specialized methods to find  $P, Q$ :**

$$\min_{P,Q} \sum_{(i,x) \in R} (r_{xi} - q_i \cdot p_x^T)^2$$

■ **Note:**

- We don't require cols of  $P, Q$  to be orthogonal/unit length
- $P, Q$  map users/movies to a latent space
- The most popular model among Netflix contestants