Supplementary Material for the Paper: Hierarchical Negative Binomial Factorization for Recommender Systems on Implicit Feedback

Complete Conditionals of Failure Exposure Count and Failure Exposure Factors

Complete conditional of user exposure count. According to the generative process of HNBF, failure exposure count (FEC) r_{ui} does not follow the relationship of conjugate prior. Even though, we can obtain the closed form of the complete conditional from the definition of ELBO. We derive the complete conditional of r_{ui} as follows.

Given joint probability $Ga(d_{ui}; r_{ui}, r_{ui})Ga(r_{ui}; g^+, \frac{g^+}{h^+})$, according to the evidence lower bound (ELBO), we have the conditional

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_{q}[\log p(r_{ui}|d_{ui}, g^{+}, f^{+})] - \mathbb{E}_{q}[\log q(r_{ui}|r_{ui}^{shp}, r_{ui}^{rte})]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{q}[\log \operatorname{Ga}(d_{ui}; r_{ui}, r_{ui})] + \mathbb{E}_{q}[\log \operatorname{Ga}(r_{ui}; g^{+}, \frac{g^{+}}{h^{+}})] - \mathbb{E}_{q}[\log \operatorname{Ga}(r_{ui}; r_{ui}^{shp}, r_{ui}^{rte})] + \operatorname{const.}$$

To derive the coordinate ascent update, we take the gradient

$$\nabla_{r_{ui}} \mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_q [\log(r_{ui}) - \Psi(r_{ui}) + \frac{g^+ - 1}{r_{ui}} - \frac{r_{ui}^{shp} - 1}{r_{ui}}] + 1 + \log(d_{ui}) - d_{ui} - \frac{g^+}{h^+} + r_{ui}^{rte}.$$

We can let this gradient be zero by setting

$$r_{ui}^{shp} = g^{+} + r_{ui}(\log(r_{ui}) - \Psi(r_{ui}),$$

$$r_{ui}^{rte} = \frac{g^{+}}{h^{+}} + d_{ui} - \log(d_{ui}) - 1.$$

Complete conditional of failure exposure factors. The complete conditional of failure exposure factors μ_u and π_i can also derived by the similar mean. We will show the derivation with respect to μ_u for example as follows.

Given joint probability

$$\prod_{k} \operatorname{Ga}(\gamma_{uk}; \mu_{u}, \mu_{u}) \operatorname{Ga}(\mu_{u}; g^{0}, \frac{g^{0}}{h^{0}}),$$

according to the evidence lower bound (ELBO), we have the

Copyright © 2021, Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (www.aaai.org). All rights reserved.

conditional

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_q[\sum_{k=1}^K \log p(\mu_u | \gamma_{uk}, g^0, h^0)] - \mathbb{E}_q[\log q(\mu_u | \mu_u^{shp}, \mu_u^{rte})]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_q[\sum_{k=1}^K \log \operatorname{Ga}(\gamma_{uk}; \mu_u, \mu_u)] + \mathbb{E}_q[\log \operatorname{Ga}(\mu_u; g^0, \frac{g^0}{h^0})] - \mathbb{E}_q[\log \operatorname{Ga}(\mu_u; \mu_u^{shp}, \mu_u^{rte})] + \text{const.}$$

To derive the coordinate ascent update, we take the gradient

$$\nabla_{r_{ui}} \mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_q [K \log \mu_u - K\Psi(\mu_u) + \frac{g^0 - 1}{\mu_u} - \frac{\mu_u^{shp} - 1}{\mu_u}] + K + \sum_{k=1}^K \log \gamma_{uk} - \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_{uk} - \frac{g^0}{h^0} + \mu_u^{rte}.$$

We can let this gradient be zero by setting

$$\mu_u^{shp} = g^0 + K\mu_u(\log \mu_u - \Psi(\mu_u)),$$

$$\mu_u^{rte} = \frac{g^0}{h^0} + \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_{uk} - \sum_{k=1}^K \log(\gamma_{uk}) - K.$$

Complete Conditionals of Dispersion and Dispersion Factors

Complete conditional of dispersion. Considering the conditional $p(d_{ui}|x_{ui}, \boldsymbol{\theta}_u^{\top}\boldsymbol{\beta}_i, r_{ui})$, we have the log posteriori

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_q[\log p(d_{ui}|x_{ui}, \boldsymbol{\theta}_u^{\top}\boldsymbol{\beta}_i, r_{ui})] - \mathbb{E}_q[\log q(d_{ui}|d_{ui}^{shp}, d_{ui}^{rte})]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_q[\log \operatorname{Pois}(x_{ui}; d_{ui}\boldsymbol{\theta}_u^{\top}\boldsymbol{\beta}_i)] + \mathbb{E}_q[\log \operatorname{Ga}(d_{ui}; r_{ui}, r_{ui})] - \mathbb{E}_q[\log \operatorname{Ga}(d_{ui}; d_{ui}^{shp}, d_{ui}^{rte})] + \operatorname{const.}$$

We can let the gradient of \mathcal{L} be zero by setting

$$d_{ui}^{shp} = r_{ui} + x_{ui},$$

$$d_{ui}^{rte} = r_{ui} + \boldsymbol{\theta}_{u}^{\top} \boldsymbol{\beta}_{i}.$$

Complete conditional of dispersion factors. The dispersion factors γ_{uk} and δ_{ik} can also be derived by the similar mean. We will show the derivation of γ_{uk} for example. Notice that γ_{uk} and δ_{ik} are the auxiliary variables. Similar to θ and β , we can regard the inner product of the two dispersion factors as a K-vector of Poisson counts that sum to the

value which multiplied by $\frac{1}{K}\theta_u^{\top}\beta_i$ is equal to observation x_{ui} . Notice that dispersion factors are used to estimate the dispersion of zero entries so that observation x_{ui} is equal to zero. Considering the log posteriori

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_{q} \left[\sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_{u}^{0}} \log p(\gamma_{uk} | 0, \delta_{ik}, \boldsymbol{\theta}_{u}^{\top} \boldsymbol{\beta}_{i}, \mu_{u}) \right] - \\ \mathbb{E}_{q} \left[\log q(\gamma_{uk} | \gamma_{uk}^{shp}, \gamma_{uk}^{rte}) \right] \\ = \mathbb{E}_{q} \left[\sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_{u}^{0}} \log \operatorname{Pois}(0; \frac{1}{K} \gamma_{uk} \delta_{ik} \boldsymbol{\theta}_{u}^{\top} \boldsymbol{\beta}_{i}) \right] + \\ \mathbb{E}_{q} \left[\log \operatorname{Ga}(\gamma_{uk}; \mu_{u}, \mu_{u}) \right] - \\ \mathbb{E}_{q} \left[\log \operatorname{Ga}(\gamma_{uk}; \gamma_{uk}^{shp}, \gamma_{uk}^{rte}) \right] + \operatorname{const.}$$

To derive the coordinate ascent update, we take the gradient,

$$\nabla_{\gamma_{uk}} \mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_q \left[-\frac{1}{K} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_u^0} \delta_{ik} \boldsymbol{\theta}_u^{\top} \boldsymbol{\beta}_i \right] + \mathbb{E}_q \left[\frac{\mu_u - 1}{\gamma_{uk}} - \mu_u \right] -$$

$$\mathbb{E}_q \left[\frac{\gamma_{uk}^{shp} - 1}{\gamma_{uk}} - \gamma_{uk}^{rte} \right]$$

We can let the gradient of \mathcal{L} be zero by setting

$$\gamma_{uk}^{shp} = \mu_u,$$

$$\gamma_{uk}^{rte} = \mu_u + \frac{1}{K} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_u^0} \delta_{ik} \boldsymbol{\theta}_u^{\top} \boldsymbol{\beta}_i.$$

Hyperparameter Setting for Dispersion Variables

The convergence of HNBF with respect to q and h. Like previous works that consider data dispersion (Basbug and Engelhardt 2017; Gouvert, Oberlin, and Févotte 2018), the setting of the prior parameters of dispersion strongly affects the performance. Figure 1 (a) shows the convergence curve with different settings of prior g when K = 20. When g is small, both r_{ui} and d_{ui} variate freely. As such, $p(x_{ui}|d_{ui}\theta_u^{\top}\beta_i)$ converges fast, which makes θ and β be updated slowly. By contrast, when g is vast, r_{ui} will be fixed to h. Thus, HNBF with fixed r_{ui} will reduce to NBF since the prior of a dispersion variable r_{ui} is set to a constant in NBF. In this case, HNBF converges fast but fails to reach a satisfying performance. On the other hand, we conduct the experiment with different settings of h^+ , as shown in Figure 1 (b). When h^+ is small, the zero dispersion model will endure strong perturbations during updating the inference model, thus causing bad performance. Hence, it is recommended to set h^+ in no small number.

Hyperparameter selection. In the prior of the rate parameter of gamma variables (i.e., $\frac{b}{c}$, $\frac{g^+}{h^+}$, and $\frac{g^0}{h^0}$) and their denominators (i.e., f, h^+ , and h^0) control the mean of the corresponding variables because, for example, the prior mean of failure exposure count $r_{ui} \sim \text{Ga}(g^+, g^+/h^+)$ is $\frac{g^+}{g^+/h^+} = h$ and its variance is $\frac{g^+}{(g^+/h^+)^2} = (h^+)^2/g^+$. With a fixed mean, the prior of the rate parameter of gamma variables control the variance. Figure 2 shows the performance of FastHNBF with different prior parameters, i.e.,

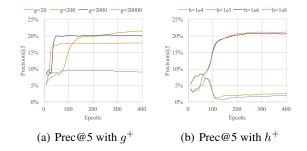


Figure 1: The convergence with various setting on Last.fm2K.

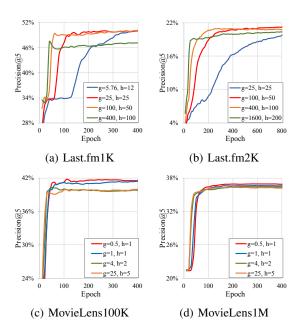


Figure 2: The convergence with various setting of prior parameters g^+ and h^+ .

 g^+ and $h^+,$ setting on four datasets: Last.fm1K, Last.fm2K, Movielens100K and Movielens1M, where the prior parameters of the inference model are set (a,b,c)=(3,1,0.1) for implicit count data (i.e., Last.fm1L and Last.fm2K), and (a,b,c)=(0.3,0.1,1) for explicit rating data (i.e., MovieLens100K and MovieLens1M), respectively.

In the experiment on implicit count data, i.e., Last.fm1K and Last.fm2K, we fix the prior variance at 25 (i.e., $h^2/g=25$) and show the effect of the prior h on the performance in Figure 2 (a) and (b). Recall that h represents the prior expectation of FEC r_{ui} . With the increasing of h, the number of epochs needed for the model to converge gradually decreases. Indeed, a large value of h causes fixed dispersion d_{ui} , thus making the inference model converge faster with the cost of a decline in performance. By contrast, when h is set to a too-small value, the model would take much time to converge. In Last.fm1K, where $\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{X}^+}[x_{ui}]=21.3$ and $\mathrm{Var}_{\mathcal{X}^+}[x_{ui}]=118.5$, the model performs well by setting g and h to 25. When h=12, the model converges

slowly. When h=200, the model converges quite fast but merely reaches 47% in terms of precision@5. In Last.fm2K, where $\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{X}^+}[x_{ui}]=746.3$ and $\mathrm{Var}_{\mathcal{X}^+}[x_{ui}]=3758.5$, the model performs well when h is larger than 100. Notice that the model with prior mean h=25 does not perform well and converge quite slow. As a result, it is recommended to use a value that is smaller than the mean of the values in nonzero entries, namely h=50 in the experiment on these two datasets.

In Figure 2 (c) and (d), fixing the prior variance at 1, we conduct the experiment on explicit rating, i.e., Movie-Lens100K and MovieLens1M, and show the effect of the prior h on the performance. We also run HNBF with (g,h) = (0.5,1) to fix the variance of failure exposure count at 0.5. Since the scale of the value in an entry is limited to [0,5] in explicit rating, prior mean h should not be set to a large value; otherwise, large h, i.e., the prior mean of failure exposure count, will fix the dispersion d_{ui} at 1, thus making the proposed model reduce to HPF approximately. In these two datasets, all the models with different setting converge fast. In MovieLens100K, where $\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{X}^+}[x_{ui}] = 3.5\overline{3}$ and $\operatorname{Var}_{\mathcal{X}^+}[x_{ui}] = 1.13$, the model performs well by setting g and h to 0.5 and 1, respectively. When h = 5, the model converges slightly faster than others but performs worse. In MovieLens1M, where $\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{X}^+}[x_{ui}] = 3.58$ and $\text{Var}_{\mathcal{X}^+}[x_{ui}] =$ 1.12, the model with setting (g, h) = (0.5, 1) outperforms the others. As a result, in explicit rating datasets, where the scale of entry value is limited, it is recommended to set the prior parameter (g, h) to (0.5, 1).

In practice, we can set g and h to adaptive values respectively by considering the mean and variance of values in nonzero entries, namely, $\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{X}^+}[x_{ui}]$ and $\mathrm{Var}_{\mathcal{X}^+}[x_{ui}]$. During the training phase, we want the variance of inference $\theta_u\beta_i$ to be large. Considering the posterior $p(\theta_u\beta_i|x_{ui},r_{ui})$ which is assumed to be a NB, we have the following formula with respect to r_{ui} derived from its variance:

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{X}^{+}}[r_{ui}] = \frac{\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{X}^{+}}[x_{ui}]^{2}}{\operatorname{Var}_{\mathcal{X}^{+}}[\boldsymbol{\theta}_{u}\boldsymbol{\beta}_{i}] - \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{X}^{+}}[x_{ui}]}.$$
 (1)

If $\operatorname{Var}_{\mathcal{X}^+}[\boldsymbol{\theta}_u\boldsymbol{\beta}_i] \approx \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{X}^+}[x_{ui}]$, expectation $\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{X}^+}[r_{ui}]$ will be very large. Since we priorly assume that $\operatorname{Var}_{\mathcal{X}^+}[\boldsymbol{\theta}_u\boldsymbol{\beta}_i] \gg \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{X}^+}[x_{ui}]$, we have the expectation of r_{ui}

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{X}^{+}}[r_{ui}] = \frac{\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{X}^{+}}[x_{ui}]^{2}}{\operatorname{Var}_{\mathcal{X}^{+}}[\theta_{u}\beta_{i}]}.$$
 (2)

Thus, to avoid set h^+ to a small value, we empirically set

$$h^{+} = \min\left(\frac{\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{X}^{+}}[x_{ui}]^{2}}{\operatorname{Var}_{\mathcal{X}^{+}}[\boldsymbol{\theta}_{u}\boldsymbol{\beta}_{i}]}, \frac{\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{X}^{+}}[x_{ui}]}{3}\right). \tag{3}$$

In the inference model, the prior parameters do not affect the performance much practically. In the experiment, the settings of prior parameters can be categorized into two folds, implicit count and explicit rating. In implicit count, considering the mean of values in nonzero entries is large, we set the prior parameter to (3,1,0.1) to fix the prior mean at 10. As such, the prior mean of $\theta_u^T \beta_i$ is fixed at 0.3. In explicit rating, we set the prior parameter to (0.3,0.1,1) to fix the

prior mean of μ_u and π_i at 0.1. As such, the prior mean of $\boldsymbol{\theta}_u^{\top} \boldsymbol{\beta}_i$ is fixed at 3.

Although the proposed method has seven hyperparameters, tuning these hyperparameters will be easy by following the policy stated as follows. Firstly, we tune the three hyperparameters in the inference model. In implicit count data, it is recommended to set (a, b, c) to (3, 1, 0.1) to make the variance of latent variables in the inference model larger. In explicit rating, it is recommended to set (a, b, c) to (0.3, 0.1, 1)since the mean and variance of the ground truth values in nonzero entries are limited. The dispersion model has four hyperparameters. We can categorize them into only two types: g and h. In the dispersion model for nonzero entries, we can set h^+ according to Eq. (3), and set q^+ to h^+ to limit the variance of the variables for FEC priorly. In the dispersion model for zero entries, hyperparameters (g^0, h^0) do not affect the performance when set to large adaptive values. Practically, we set (g^0, h^0) to $(10^1, 10^8)$ to run the proposed model on smaller datasets such as Last.fm1K, Last.fm2K, MovieLens100K and MovieLens1M. The proposed model with (g^0, h^0) set to $(10^2, 10^{12})$ can perform well on large datasets, e.g., Last.fm360K and MovieLens20M. In the dispersion model for nonzero entries, we have analyzed the effect of (g, h) on the performance, as shown in Figure 2. Therefore, one can obtain satisfying results by following our instruction to set hyperparameters.

The effect of the long-tail of users and items

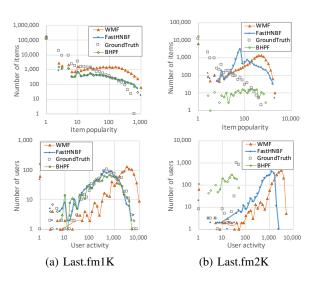


Figure 3: The long-tail of users and items on implicit count data

The effect of the long-tail on implicit count. Figure 3 shows the distributions of user activity and item popularity on implicit count datasets. Since HPF does not perform well on the implicit count datasets due to the data overdispersion, we use BHPF, which truncates the entry values at 1, for the discussion of the long-tail. The predicted values from BHPF larger than 0.1 are set to 1, and the rest are set to 0. WMF, a Gaussian-based model, overestimates both the item pop-

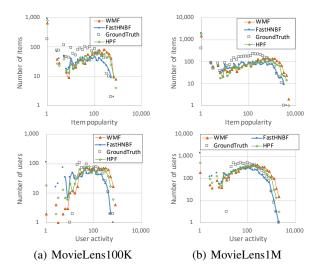


Figure 4: The long-tail of users and items on explicit rating data

ularity and user activity. Notice that both WMF and BHPF are for binarized implicit data, and BHPF can more tightly fit the long-tail of users and items, whereas WMF often overestimates them. However, on a sparse dataset, e.g., Last.fm2K, BHPF underestimates user popularity and item popularity. If the entry value is considered, both entry values and the density of the utility matrix (i.e., how many nonzero entries) affect a model. In this case, a model should be equipped with a component to estimate the data dispersion. On the other hand, when all the nonzero entries are set to 1 (i.e., entry values are truncated at 1), data overdispersion is avoided, and only the density of the utility matrix significantly impacts the predicted values. Hence, BHPF can be adaptive to overdispersed data but be a little sensitive to density. Compared with BHPF, FastHNBF slightly overestimates the user popularity and the item popularity, since FastHNBF directly fit the count value rather than its binarized value truncated at 1. Even though the data are overdispersed, FastHNBF can fit the long-tails well since FastHNBF has a hierarchical dispersion model to estimate the data dispersion.

The effect of the long-tail on explicit rating. Figure 4 shows the distributions of user activity and item popularity on explicit rating datasets. Since the value range of rating data is limited (i.e., in [0, 10]), we use HPF rather than BHPF in the experiment. All the predicted values larger than 0.8 are set to 1, and the rest are set to 0. The three methods (i.e., WMF, FastHNBF, and HPF) fit the long-tail well. WMF and HPF overestimate user activity and item popularity slightly, whereas FastHNBF underestimates them. The underestimation of FastHNBF is caused by its dispersion model. According to the likelihood $p(x_{ui}|r_{ui}\theta_u\beta_i)$, when dispersion r_{ui} is larger, inference score $\theta_u \beta_i$) should be smaller to maximize the likelihood. As a result, the inference score from FastHNBF is underestimated. Accordingly, both the user activity and the item popularity are underestimated as well. On the other hand, compared with the underestimation of BHPF

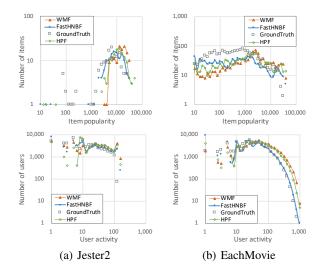


Figure 5: The long-tail of users and items on "tall-and-skinny" data

on implicit count datasets, the user activity and the item popularity predicted by HPF are slightly overestimated. We explain that a model with no component for estimating data dispersion, such as HPF, is prone to overestimate the inference score. Recall that only $\theta_u\beta_i$ can be modulated in HPF to maximize the likelihood $p(x_{ui}|\theta_u\beta_i)$ so that the values of nonzero entries would raise the values of latent factors θ and β , thus increasing the inference scores of zero entries.

The effect of the long-tail on "tall-and-skinny" utility matrices. We conduct the experiment on two explicit rating datasets: Jester2 and EachMovie. Since the value range of rating data is limited, we use HPF rather than BHPF in the experiment. The result is similar to the experimental result on explicit rating data. FastHNBF fits the user activity and item popularity the best, whereas HPF overestimates slightly. The Gaussian-based model (i.e., WMF) fed by binarized data truncated at 1, let alone the original data without truncation, overestimates the worst. On the other hand, the distributions over item popularity do not follow power laws because the number of the items is much less than the number of the users in the two datasets. Especially in Jester2, which comprises 140 items merely, the distribution over item popularity has a peak centered at 6,300. This observation could inspire future research in the community to improve the recommendation on implicit data via studying which data properties affect the performance of Gaussian-based matrix factorization. Furthermore, studying the difference between Poisson-based models and Gaussianbased ones from the perspective of data properties could help bridge the gap between the two main streams of recommendation models.

Consequently, FastHNBF fits the distributions over user activity and item popularity the best due to its hierarchical dispersion model. With an assist from the dispersion model, the inference model need not fit overdispersed data directly because the dispersion model can absorb the noise in data.

Hence, the three experiments indicate that FastHNBF better represents real data in terms of the ability to capture distributions of user activity and item popularity.

Experimental Results

Results on implicit count data. Table 1 shows the experimental results¹. Owing to the limitation of memory and time cost, we only compare four efficient methods with the updating time per epoch linear to the number of nonzero entries on Last.fm360K. FastHNBF outperforms the other Poisson-based methods on the three datasets. NBF performs better than HPF because its dispersion model contributes to the robustness of entry value estimation. Nevertheless, the failure exposure count in NBF is given as a prior, thus limiting the model's capability. In contrast, FastHNBF utilizes a hierarchical Bayesian structure to enhance the capability for estimating dispersion, thus improving the inference performance. Data usually are too overdispersed to be fitted by the models with limited data variance assumption on implicit count, so that BHPF outperforms HPF.

Results on explicit rating data. The performances are shown in Table 2. Only three methods can run on Movie-Lens20M owing to the limitation of memory. Since HPF performs better than BHPF, which factorizes a binarized utility matrix, value rather than exposure of nonzero entries is vital to performance on explicit rating. Notice that HNBF outperforms HPF even though data are not overdispersed because the well-estimated dispersion can also be viewed as a correction term of the model inference. The estimation for data dispersion can smooth the updating of latent variables, thus helping the inference model optimize. Hence, HNBF outperforms the Poisson-based methods since the hierarchical dispersion model estimates data dispersion more accurately.

Effect of long-tailed item popularity. The performance gap between Gaussian-based models and Poisson-based ones reduces when $M \gg N$, as shown in Table 3. In Each-Movie, FastHNBF outperforms ExpoMF in terms of all the criteria except for Prec@5. Poisson-based models are prone to slightly underestimate item popularity (i.e., how many users consumed an item) and user activity (i.e., how many items a user consumed). By contrast, Gaussian-based methods that consider user exposure often overestimate them, as shown in Figure ??. In Jester2, the item popularity distribution centers at 6,300 and does not appear in long-tail, making WMF badly overestimate item popularity. As a result, all the Poisson-based models perform better than WMF and ExpoMF on Jester 2. By contrast, on a dataset with the longtail of items, it is difficult for Poisson-based models to fit the entries with values close to 0. Hence, the long-tailed item popularity will decrease their performance.

Test of Significance

To show the significance of the performance of Poissonbased models, we do the t-tests. For each pair of models, we first do the f-tests to determine the significance of the equality of variances. When the p-value is higher than 0.05, we then do the t-test assuming equal variances. On the contrary, when the p-value is lower than 0.05, we then do the t-test assuming unequal variances.

Significance of performance on implicit count data

The t-tests of the performance of the comparing methods on implicit count data are shown in Figure 6. The outperformance of FastHNBF on Last.fm1K in terms of precision@5, recall@5, and nDCG@5 is significant. FastHNBF also outperforms other competitors in terms of precision@5 and recall@5 on Last.fm2K. Notice that the p-value of the t-test between the performance of FastHNBF and PRPF on Last.fm2K is 0.096, as shown in Figure 6 (f). The outperformance over PRPF on Last.fm2K in terms of nDCG@5 is insignificant. A similar situation is found on Last.fm360K: the outperformance of FastHNBF over PRPF is significant in all metrics except for nDCG@5. Both BHPF and PRPF are able to mitigate data overdispersion. PRPF considers items permutation for each user, whereas BHPF neglects the values of positive entries by clipping them to 1. Since PRPF considers the ranking over items, PRPF performs better than BHPF in most cases. Except for FastHNBF, there is no Poisson-based method that outperforms the others in all cases. Hence, despite the insignificance, we can conclude that FastHNBF leads to the best and robust performance in all metrics.

Significance of performance on explicit rating data

The t-tests between the performance of the comparing methods on explicit rating data are shown in Figure 7. On Movie-Lens100K, FastHNBF performs the best, followed by PRPF. PRPF performs slightly better than HPF. The outperformance of PRPF over HPF is insignificant (i.e., the p-values are 0.182, 0.251, and 0.250 in terms of precision@5, recall@5, and nDCG@5, respectively) Compared with this, the outperformance of FastHNBF over PRPF is more significant. The p-value in terms of precision@5 is 0.108, as shown in Figure 7 (a); the p-value in terms of recall@5 is 0.098, as shown in Figure 7 (b). FastHNBF significantly outperforms the other competitors in terms of nDCG@5.

On MovieLens1M, FastHNBF performs the best, followed by NBF and HPF. We can see that NBF and HPF performs similar (i.e., the p-values are 0.786, 0.676, and 0.978 in terms of precision@5, recall@5, and nDCG@5, respectively) Compared with this, the outperformance of FastHNBF over the other methods is more significant, where the maximum p-value is 0.051 (i.e., the outperformance over NBF in terms of nDCG@5).

On MovieLens20M, HPF performs better than BHPF in precision@5 and nDCG@5 but worse than BHPF in terms of recall@5. Compared with the performance gap between HPF and BHPF, FastHNBF reaches higher scores in terms of precision@5 more significantly (with p-value 0.059) We explain that the relevant items are likely ranked in the top 5 by FastHNBF, whereas HPF puts more emphasis on highly ranked items. That is why HPF performs worse than FastHNBF in terms of precision@5 but performs similarly to FastHNBF.

All in all, the Poisson-based methods perform similarly on explicit rating data since the rating is not Poisson dis-

¹The experiment is conducted on PC with Quad-Core Intel Core i5 CPU @ 1.4GHz and 16GB main memory.

Table 1: The result on implicit count data represented in percentage with dimensionality K=20.

			Last	.fm1K					
	Prec@5	Prec@20	Rec@5	Rec@20	nDCG@5	nDCG@20	time/epoch		
WMF	57.8±0.2	45.6±0.1	2.40±0.0	7.03±0.0	59.8±0.3	49.7±0.1	68.87		
ExpoMF	55.3 ± 0.2	44.3 ± 0.1	2.20 ± 0.0	6.61 ± 0.1	57.3 ± 0.2	48.1 ± 0.0	85.08		
HPF	34.8±1.1	28.6±0.6	1.39 ± 0.1	$4.38{\pm}0.1$	35.5±1.2	30.6±0.7	0.78		
BHPF	45.4 ± 1.0	36.5 ± 0.8	1.70 ± 0.1	5.26 ± 0.2	46.9 ± 1.0	39.5 ± 0.9	0.81		
PRPF	46.7 ± 1.1	37.4 ± 0.8	1.86 ± 0.1	5.40 ± 0.1	47.6 ± 1.1	39.3 ± 1.0	1257.19		
CCPF	33.5 ± 1.6	27.5 ± 0.7	1.37 ± 0.1	4.22 ± 0.1	34.3 ± 1.6	29.4 ± 0.8	111.95		
NBF	36.4 ± 0.7	28.8 ± 0.7	1.51 ± 0.0	4.58 ± 0.1	37.5 ± 0.8	31.3 ± 0.6	5.96		
FastHNBF	50.8±1.0	40.3±0.6	2.00±0.1	5.97±0.1	52.3±0.9	43.7±0.6	1.39		
	Last.fm2K								
	Prec@5	Prec@20	Rec@5	Rec@20	nDCG@5	nDCG@20	time/epoch		
WMF	22.3 ± 0.2	13.5±0.1	10.3 ± 0.1	24.6±0.1	24.0 ± 0.2	23.8 ± 0.1	11.56		
ExpoMF	24.1±0.2	12.4 ± 0.0	11.2±0.1	22.8 ± 0.1	26.9±0.2	23.9 ± 0.1	11.15		
HPF	$14.8 {\pm} 0.5$	$8.58{\pm}0.2$	$6.84{\pm}0.2$	15.7 ± 0.3	16.0 ± 0.6	15.4 ± 0.4	0.07		
BHPF	20.1 ± 0.3	10.8 ± 0.1	9.29 ± 0.1	19.7 ± 0.2	22.6 ± 0.3	20.4 ± 0.2	0.07		
PRPF	20.6 ± 0.5	11.0 ± 0.1	9.55 ± 0.2	20.2 ± 0.2	23.0 ± 0.5	20.9 ± 0.3	14.37		
CCPF	14.1 ± 0.8	8.47 ± 0.2	6.52 ± 0.4	15.5 ± 0.4	15.1 ± 0.9	14.9 ± 0.5	16.42		
NBF	15.7 ± 0.8	9.14 ± 0.2	7.29 ± 0.4	16.8 ± 0.5	17.0 ± 1.0	16.4 ± 0.7	0.82		
FastHNBF	21.0±0.3	11.2±0.1	9.77±0.1	20.5±0.2	23.3±0.2	21.2±0.2	0.12		
Last.fm360K									
	Prec@5	Prec@20	Rec@5	Rec@20	nDCG@5	nDCG@20	time/epoch		
HPF	9.17±0.2	6.04±0.1	4.27±0.1	11.2±0.1	9.96±0.2	10.4±0.1	16.21		
BHPF	10.0 ± 0.2	6.44 ± 0.1	4.70 ± 0.1	12.0 ± 0.2	11.0 ± 0.2	11.3 ± 0.2	16.24		
PRPF	$9.95{\pm}0.2$	6.31 ± 0.1	$4.64{\pm}0.1$	11.7 ± 0.0	10.9 ± 0.1	11.2 ± 0.1	16329.8		
FastHNBF	10.2 ± 0.1	6.58±0.0	4.76±0.0	12.2±0.1	11.1±0.2	11.5 ± 0.1	31.06		

tributed. Even so, FastHNBF gains a significant performance improvement, and thus FastHNBF could bridge the gap between Gaussian-based exposure models (e.g., WMF and ExpoMF) and Poisson-based ones.

Significance of performance on data with $M \gg N$

In terms of precision@5, FastHNBF outperforms the other competitors on Jester2 (Figure 8 (d)) and EachMovie (Figure 8 (a)). BHPF reaches a higher recall@5 score than FastHNBF insignificantly (with p-value 0.602). In terms of nDCG@5, on Jester2, FastHNBF performs the best, followed by NBF. Compared with other performance significance, the outperformance of FastHNBF over NBF is more significant since the p-value is the minimum, 0.126, as shown in 8 (c). On EachMovie, FastHNBF slightly outperforms BHPF in terms of recall@5 (with p-value 0.767 as shown in Figure 8 (e)) and nDCG@5 (with p-value 0.478 as shown in Figure 8 (f)). In terms of recall@5, FastHNBF, HPF, and BHPF perform similarly, and they reach recall@5 scores significantly higher than the other three, which also perform similarly, as shown in Figure 8 (e). Both methods perform better than the others significantly in nDCG@5, as shown in Figure 8 (f).

References

Basbug, M. E.; and Engelhardt, B. E. 2017. Coupled Compound Poisson Factorization. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1701.02058*.

Gouvert, O.; Oberlin, T.; and Févotte, C. 2018. Negative Binomial Matrix Factorization for Recommender Systems. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1801.01708*.

Table 2: The result on explicit rating data represented in percentage with dimensionality K=20.

MovieLens100K									
	Prec@5	Prec@10	Rec@5	Rec@20	nDCG@5	nDCG@20	time/epoch		
WMF	45.7±0.2	30.2±0.0	14.7±0.1	35.1±0.1	42.7±0.1	42.2±0.1	0.67		
ExpoMF	44.6 ± 0.2	29.6 ± 0.1	14.1 ± 0.1	33.9 ± 0.2	42.1 ± 0.3	41.4 ± 0.2	0.71		
HPF	40.2±0.8	28.2±0.4	12.3±0.4	31.8±0.5	37.5±0.9	37.9±0.6	0.06		
BHPF	39.6 ± 0.9	27.5 ± 0.4	12.4 ± 0.3	31.2 ± 0.5	35.5 ± 0.8	36.2 ± 0.5	0.06		
PRPF	40.7 ± 0.7	28.2 ± 0.3	12.5 ± 0.3	31.8 ± 0.4	37.1 ± 0.7	37.3 ± 0.4	10.49		
CCPF	39.0 ± 1.0	27.8 ± 0.3	11.6 ± 0.3	31.0 ± 0.5	36.2 ± 0.7	36.8 ± 0.3	0.74		
NBF	40.0 ± 0.7	28.1 ± 0.2	12.2 ± 0.4	31.7 ± 0.5	37.3 ± 0.8	37.7 ± 0.5	0.16		
FastHNBF	41.2±0.6	28.4±0.2	12.7±0.4	31.9±0.4	38.2±0.6	38.2±0.5	0.10		
	MovieLens1M								
	Prec@5	Prec@20	Rec@5	Rec@20	nDCG@5	nDCG@20	time/epoch		
WMF	40.8±0.1	29.3±0.0	9.17±0.0	23.3±0.0	38.1±0.0	35.3±0.0	10.31		
ExpoMF	40.4 ± 0.0	28.9 ± 0.0	9.01 ± 0.0	22.8 ± 0.0	38.1 ± 0.1	35.1 ± 0.0	10.23		
HPF	36.1±0.4	26.2±0.2	7.46±0.2	20.1±0.5	33.4±0.3	30.9±0.3	0.65		
BHPF	35.9 ± 0.4	26.2 ± 0.2	7.49 ± 0.2	20.1 ± 0.3	32.2 ± 0.3	30.0 ± 0.3	0.65		
PRPF	35.5 ± 0.5	26.1 ± 0.3	7.39 ± 0.2	20.0 ± 0.5	32.5 ± 0.4	30.3 ± 0.3	441.46		
CCPF	35.9 ± 0.4	26.2 ± 0.1	7.45 ± 0.1	$20.3 {\pm} 0.1$	33.1 ± 0.4	30.8 ± 0.2	13.55		
NBF	36.1 ± 0.3	26.2 ± 0.1	7.46 ± 0.2	20.1 ± 0.3	33.4 ± 0.3	30.8 ± 0.2	1.63		
FastHNBF	36.4±0.3	26.3±0.2	7.54±0.2	20.1 ± 0.4	33.6±0.3	30.9±0.3	1.20		
MovieLens20M									
	Prec@5	Prec@10	Rec@5	Rec@20	nDCG@5	nDCG@20	time/epoch		
HPF	32.1±0.3	22.4±0.2	9.02±0.1	22.9±0.1	30.0±0.3	29.3±0.3	17.88		
BHPF	31.9 ± 0.3	22.3 ± 0.2	9.11 ± 0.1	$22.8 {\pm} 0.2$	29.0 ± 0.3	28.6 ± 0.3	17.94		
FastHNBF	$32.3{\pm}0.3$	22.5 ± 0.2	$\textbf{9.13} {\pm} \textbf{0.1}$	22.9 ± 0.1	30.0±0.3	29.3 ± 0.2	37.17		

Table 3: The result on explicit rating data, where $M \gg N$, represented in percentage with dimensionality K=20.

Jester2								
	Prec@5	Prec@20	Rec@5	Rec@20	nDCG@5	nDCG@20	time/epoch	
WMF	25.7±0.3	15.9±0.1	24.7±1.0	53.9±1.5	28.8±0.7	37.7±0.8	9.29	
ExpoMF	$\pmb{26.0 \!\pm\! 0.6}$	$16.0{\pm}0.1$	27.9 ± 1.9	58.2 ± 0.9	30.6±1.5	40.0 ± 1.2	5.03	
HPF	30.9±0.5	17.5±0.2	41.2±0.7	71.4±0.8	40.8±0.7	50.3±0.6	0.84	
BHPF	31.3 ± 0.5	18.0 ± 0.2	43.0 ± 0.7	73.9 ± 0.8	40.6 ± 0.6	51.0 ± 0.7	0.85	
PRPF	30.9 ± 0.3	17.9 ± 0.2	41.8 ± 0.8	72.7 ± 0.7	40.3 ± 0.8	50.5 ± 0.8	188.85	
CCPF	30.7 ± 0.5	17.4 ± 0.1	41.3 ± 1.3	71.2 ± 0.7	40.7 ± 0.7	50.1 ± 0.6	5.28	
NBF	30.9 ± 0.3	17.5 ± 0.1	41.3 ± 1.0	71.6 ± 0.6	41.1 ± 1.0	50.7 ± 0.8	1.45	
FastHNBF	31.7±0.4	17.7±0.2	42.8±0.9	72.4±0.7	41.9±0.7	51.3±0.7	1.80	
EachMovie								
	Prec@5	Prec@20	Rec@5	Rec@20	nDCG@5	nDCG@20	time/epoch	
WMF	40.0±0.3	23.1±0.1	34.1±1.0	61.5±1.5	50.7±0.7	54.2±0.8	45.21	
ExpoMF	37.7 ± 0.1	21.9 ± 0.1	31.0 ± 0.3	57.9 ± 0.3	47.3 ± 0.2	50.7 ± 0.2	51.13	
HPF	36.8±0.4	22.1±0.2	32.3±0.2	60.6±0.4	46.9±0.5	51.8±0.5	2.18	
BHPF	37.0 ± 0.3	22.1 ± 0.1	32.5 ± 0.1	60.3 ± 0.4	47.6 ± 0.2	52.2 ± 0.3	2.16	
PRPF	36.7 ± 0.3	22.2 ± 0.1	32.1 ± 0.3	60.6 ± 0.4	46.4 ± 0.4	51.4 ± 0.4	626.81	
CCPF	36.4 ± 0.2	21.9 ± 0.1	32.0 ± 0.2	60.3 ± 0.2	46.2 ± 0.2	51.3 ± 0.1	70.60	
NBF	36.7 ± 0.3	22.2 ± 0.1	32.1 ± 0.3	60.8 ± 0.1	46.7 ± 0.4	51.8 ± 0.2	5.39	
FastHNBF	37.6 ± 0.4	22.4 ± 0.1	32.5 ± 0.4	60.9 ± 0.4	47.8 ± 0.6	52.4 ± 0.5	4.13	

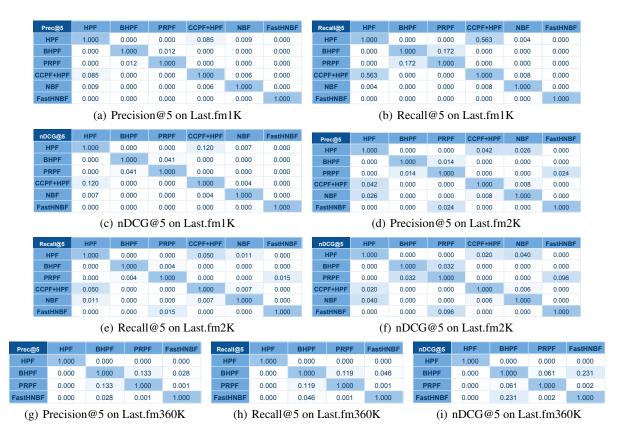


Figure 6: T-test on implicit count datasets.

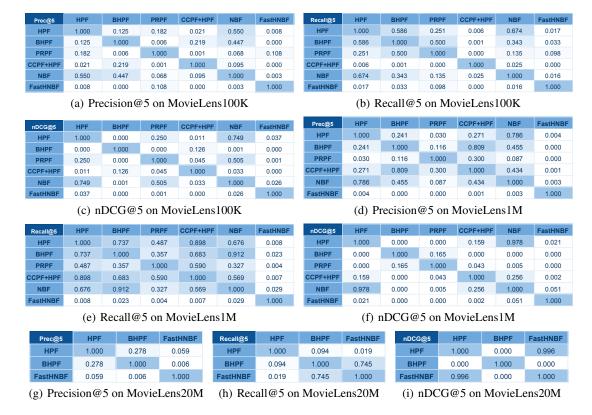


Figure 7: T-test on explicit rating datasets.

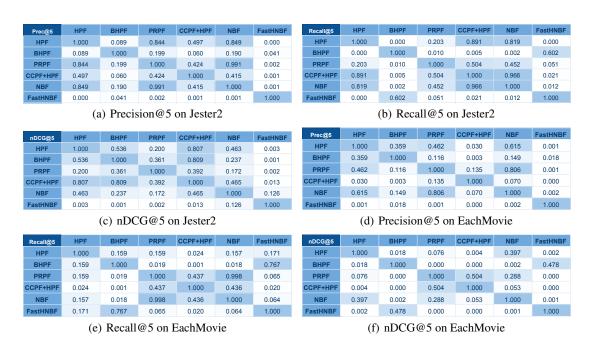


Figure 8: T-test on explicit rating datasets with $M\gg N$.