Introduction to Recommender Systems





Recommender System





Provide recommendations to the users

Recommender System





Provide recommendations to the users

Booking.com





Provide recommendations to the users







Provide recommendations to the users







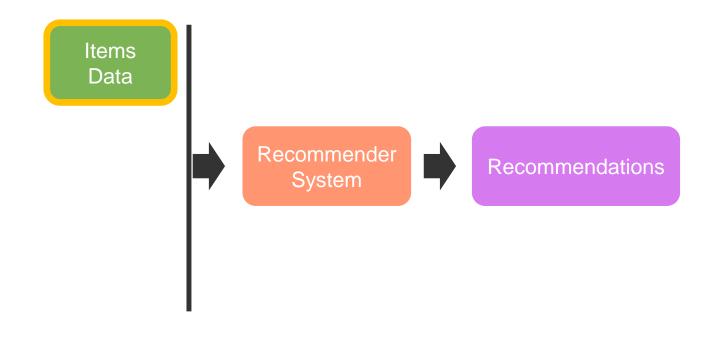


Provide recommendations to the users

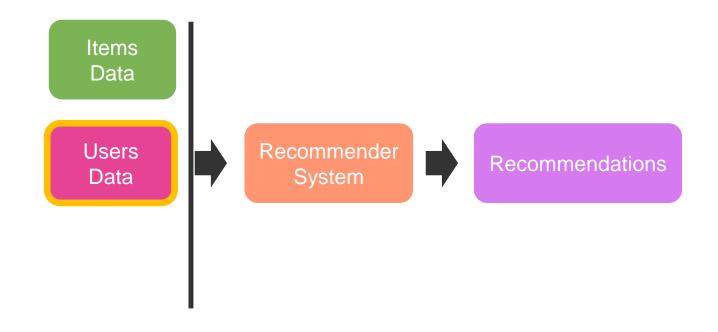




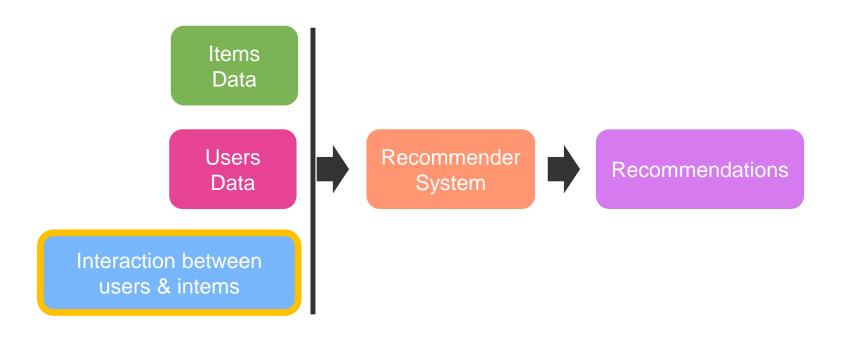




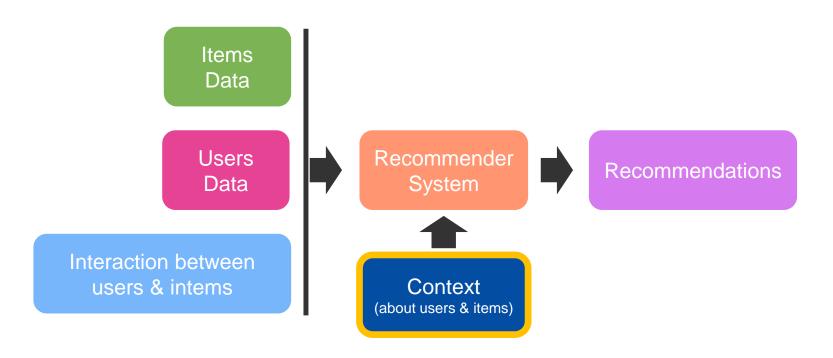




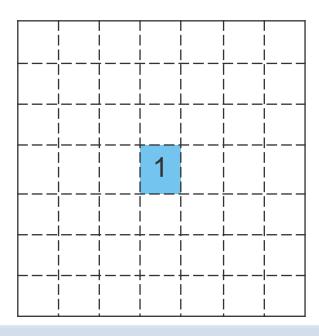


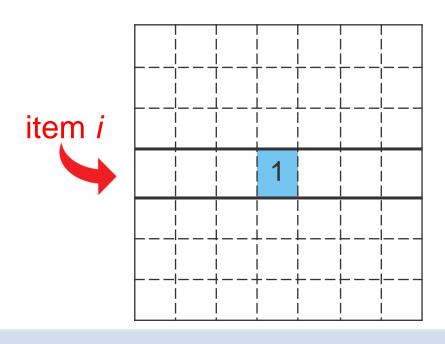




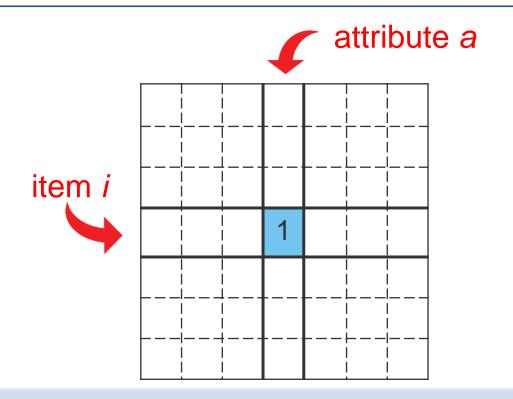




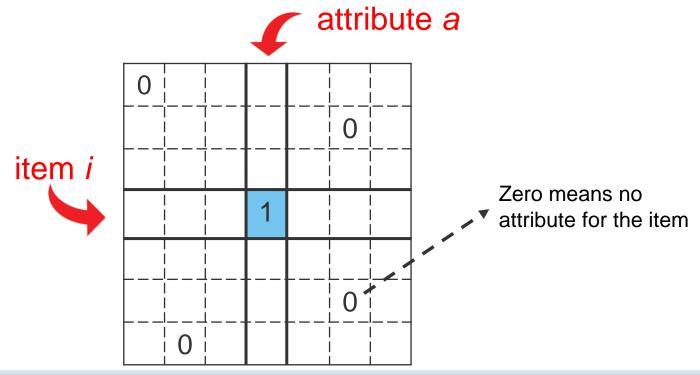




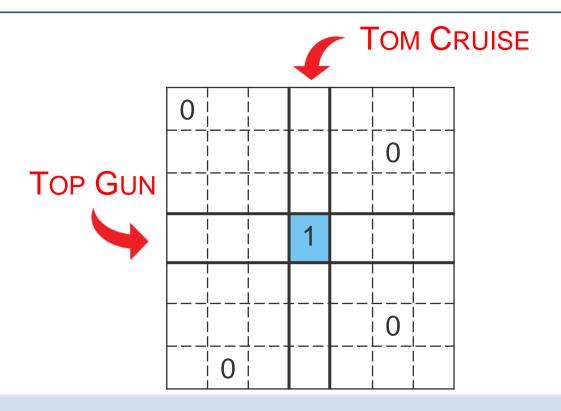




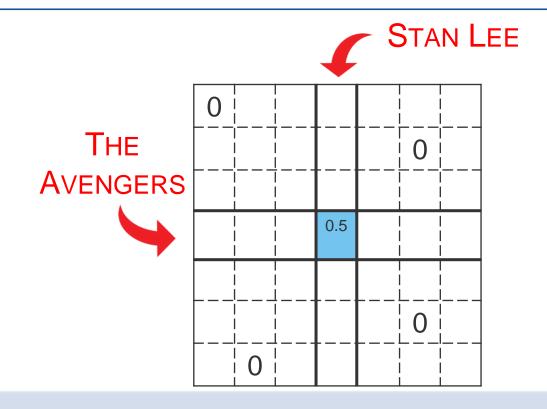




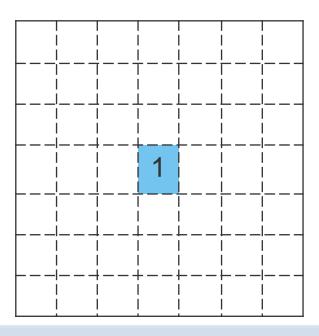




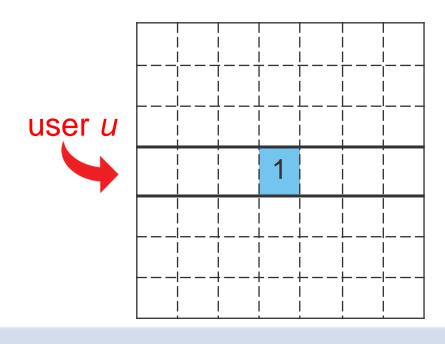


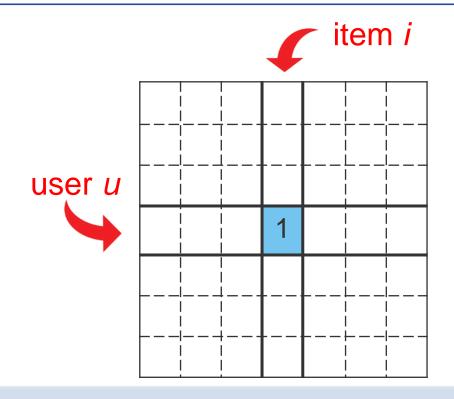


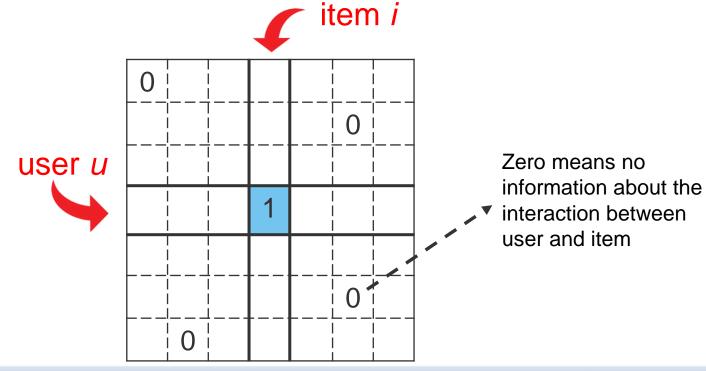






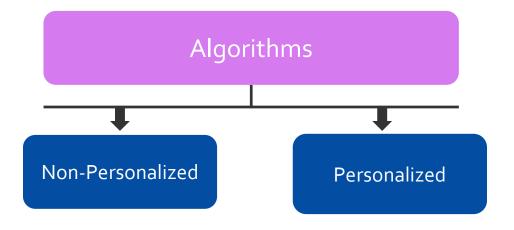




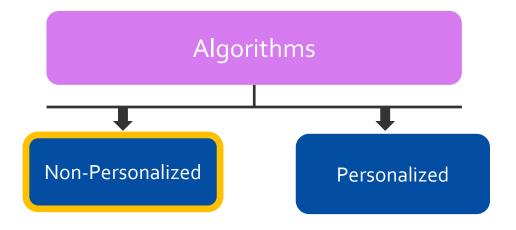


Taxonomy of Recommender Systems

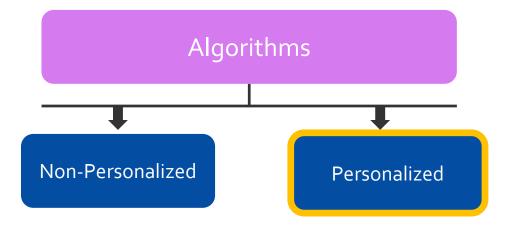




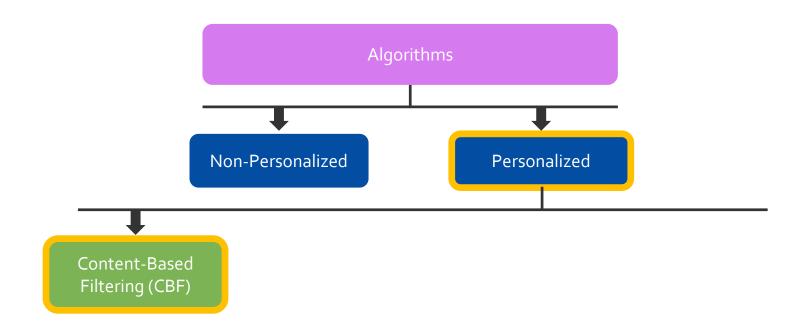




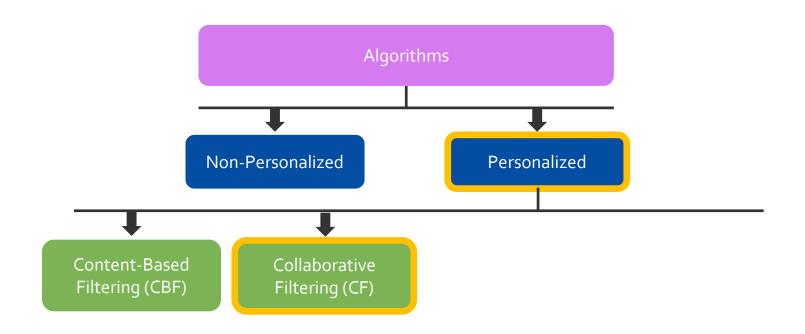




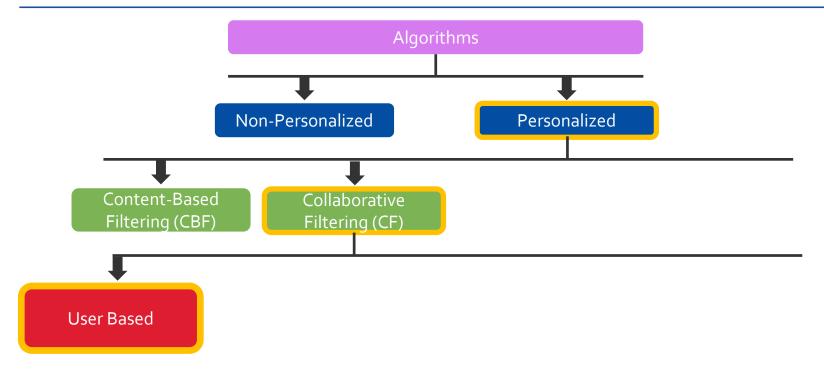


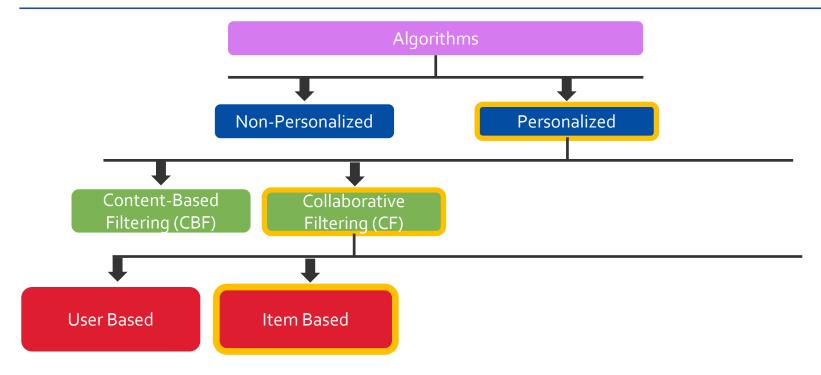


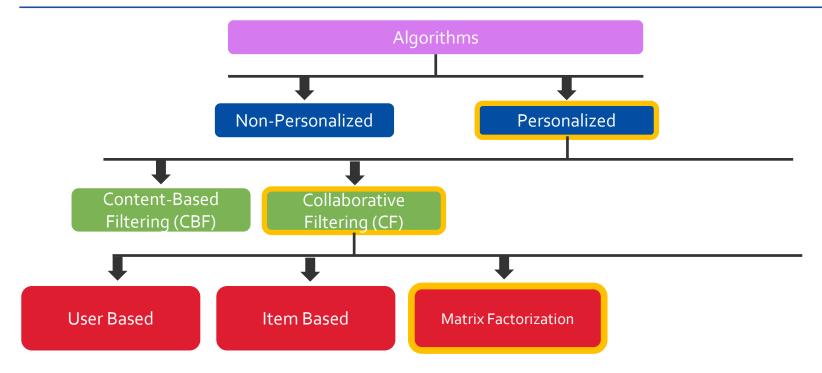




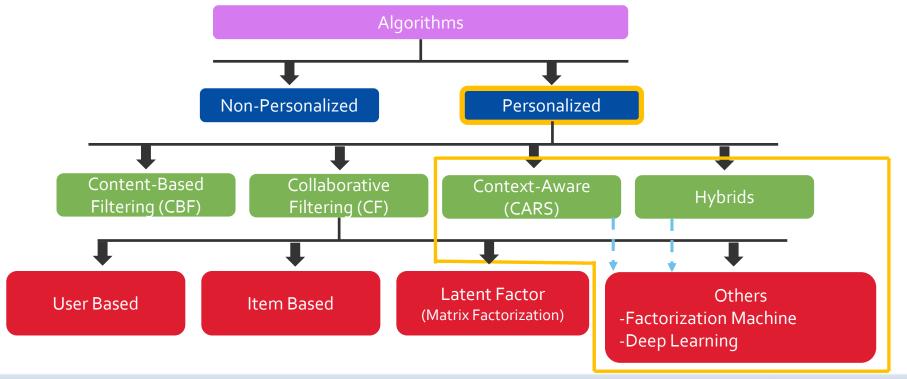












Ratings, predictions and recommendations

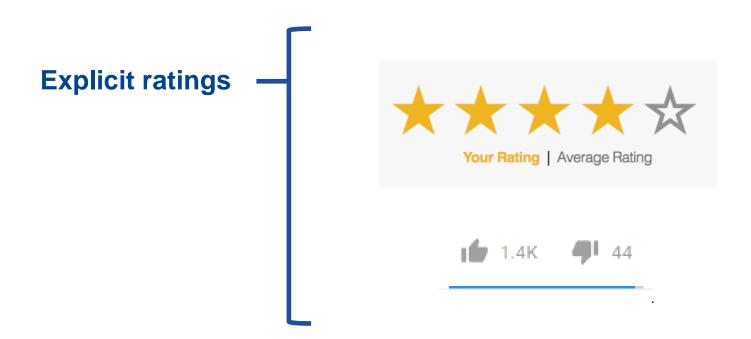


Rating Systems

Explicit ratings

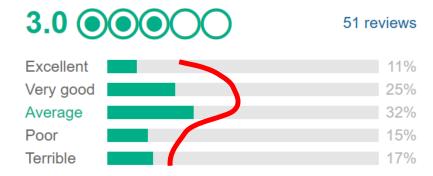


Rating Systems





Ratings Distribution



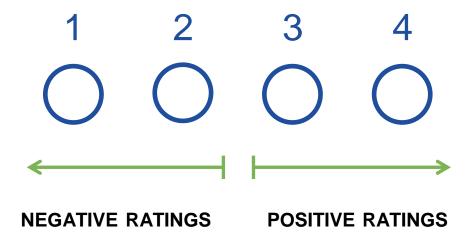
Rating Systems

Explicit ratings

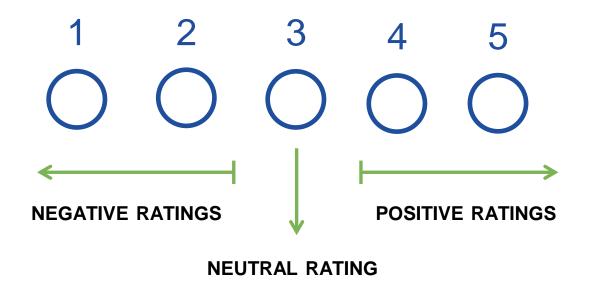
Implicit ratings



Even Ratings Scale

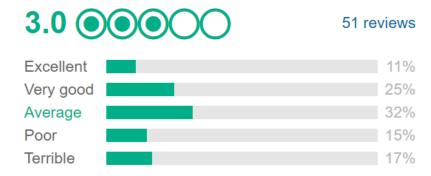


Odd Ratings Scale



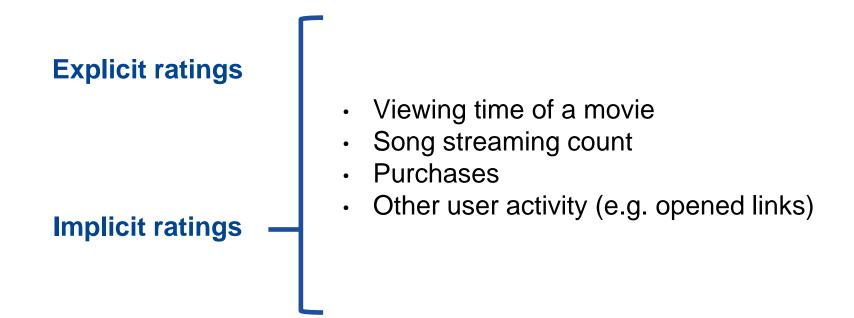


Ratings Distribution

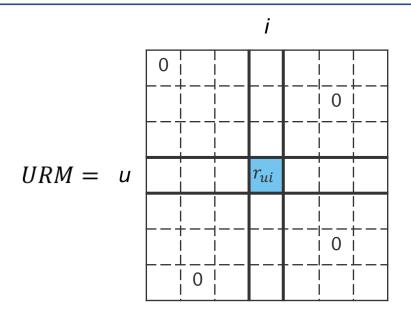




Rating Systems



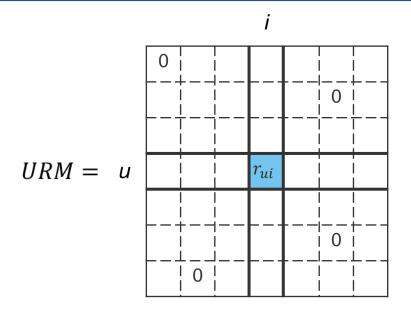
Inferring Preferences



 r_{ui} = Rating that user u gave to item i



Inferring Preferences

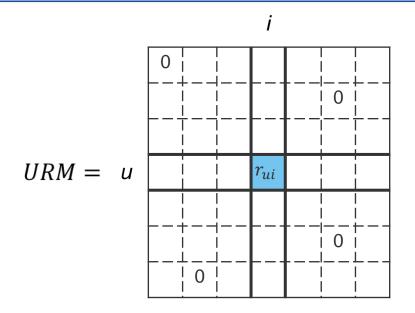


 $r_{ui} \in \{0,1\}$ (Implicit)

 r_{ui} = Rating that user u gave to item i



Inferring Preferences



$$r_{ui} \in \{0,1\} \leftarrow \text{implicit}$$

$$r_{ui} \in \{1,2,3,4,5\} \leftarrow \text{explicit}$$

 r_{ui} = Rating that user u gave to item i



URM Density

typical URM density < 0.01 %



URM Density

typical URM density < 0.01 %

Netflix URM density ≈ 0.002%

MovieLens URM density ≈ 0.005%



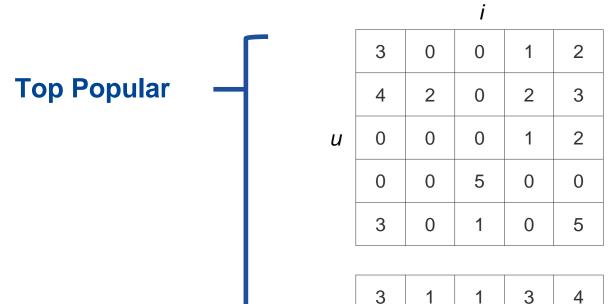


Top Popular



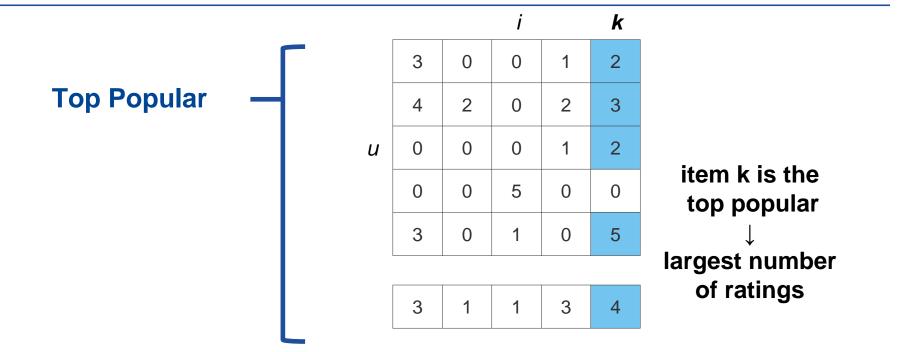
Top Popular





ratings per item



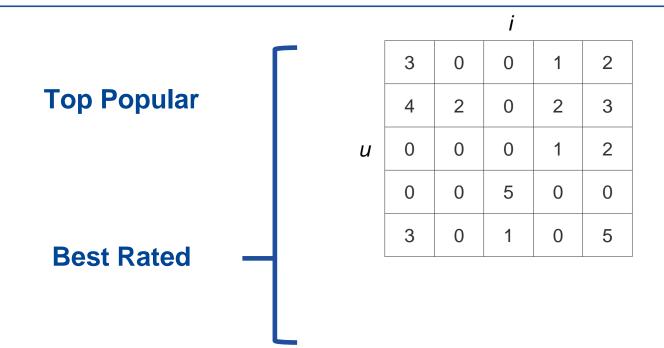


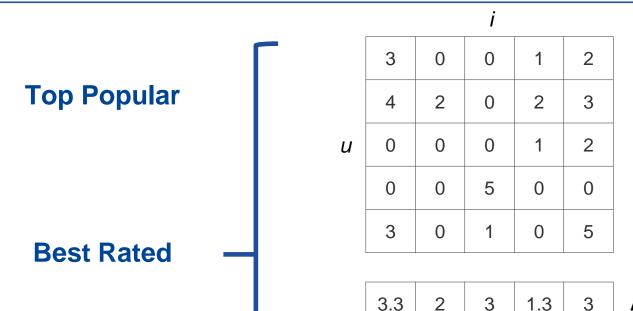


Top Popular

Best Rated

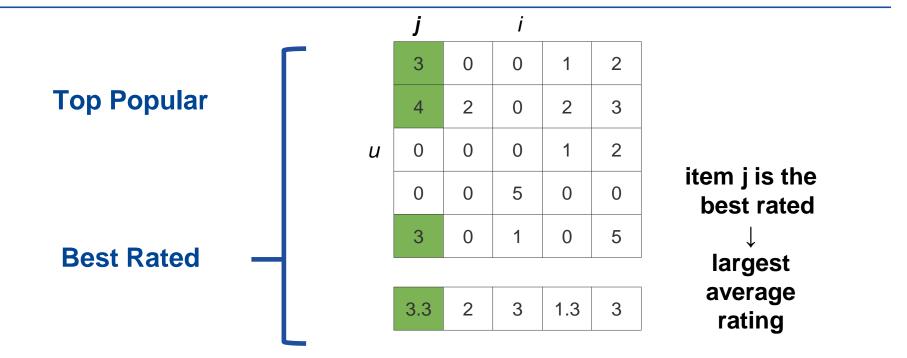






Avg ratings per item







Item bias

Average rating of item i

$$b_i = \frac{\sum_u r_{ui}}{N_i}$$



Item bias

Average rating of item i

$$b_i = \frac{\sum_u r_{ui}}{N_i}$$

 r_{ui} : rating given by user u to item i (non zero ratings)

 N_i : number of users who rated item i



Item bias: support

Shrinked avg. rating of item i

$$b_i = \frac{\sum_u r_{ui}}{N_i + C}$$



Item bias: support

Shrinked avg. rating of item i

$$b_i = \frac{\sum_u r_{ui}}{N_i + C}$$

 r_{ui} : rating given by user u to item i (non zero ratings)

 N_i : number of users who have rated item i

C: shrink term (costant value)



Global Effects



Avg. ratings for all items and users

$$\mu = \frac{\sum_{i} \sum_{u} r_{ui}^{+}}{N^{+}}$$

Avg. ratings for all items and users

$$\mu = \frac{\sum_{i} \sum_{u} r_{ui}^{+}}{N^{+}}$$

 μ : overall average of ratings, for all users and all items

 r_{ui}^+ : explicit rating given by user u to item i

 N^+ : total number of non zero ratings

Note: the + symbol denotes that we are not computing this average on the full URM, but **only** on the **non zero elements**



Normalized rating

$$r'_{ui} = r^+_{ui} - \mu$$

to be computed for each user *u* and item *i*, only on non-zero ratings

Item bias

$$b_i = \frac{\sum_u r'_{ui}}{N_i + C}$$

Item bias

$$b_i = \frac{\sum_u r'_{ui}}{N_i + C}$$

 N_i : number of users who have rated item i to be computed for each item i



Recompute rating

$$r_{ui}^{\prime\prime}=r_{ui}^{\prime}-b_{i}$$

to be computed for each user *u* and item *i*, only on non-zero ratings



User bias

$$b_u = \frac{\sum_i r_{ui}^{\prime\prime}}{N_u + C}$$

User bias

$$b_u = \frac{\sum_i r_{ui}^{\prime\prime}}{N_u + C}$$

 N_u : number of items i rated by user u to be computed for each user u



Global effects final formula estimated rating

$$\tilde{r}_{ui} = \mu + b_i + b_u$$

to be computed for each user *u* and item *i*, only on non-zero ratings



• Step 1: compute the average of all ratings (μ)

$$\tilde{r}_{ui} = \mu + b_i + b_u$$



- Step 1: compute the average of all ratings (μ)
- Step 2: remove this quantity from the URM

$$\tilde{r}_{ui} = \mu + b_i + b_u$$



- Step 1: compute the average of all ratings (μ)
- Step 2: remove this quantity from the URM
- Step 3: compute the bias for each item (b_i)

$$\tilde{r}_{ui} = \mu + b_i + b_u$$



- Step 1: compute the average of all ratings (μ)
- Step 2: remove this quantity from the URM
- Step 3: compute the bias for each item (b_i)
- Step 4: remove this quantity from the URM

$$\tilde{r}_{ui} = \mu + b_i + b_u$$



Global Effects: Recap

- Step 1: compute the average of all ratings (μ)
- Step 2: remove this quantity from the URM
- Step 3: compute the bias for each item (b_i)
- Step 4: remove this quantity from the URM
- Step 5: compute the bias for each user (b_u)

$$\tilde{r}_{ui} = \mu + b_i + b_u$$



Global Effects: Recap

- Step 1: compute the average of all ratings (μ)
- Step 2: remove this quantity from the URM
- Step 3: compute the bias for each item (b_i)
- Step 4: remove this quantity from the URM
- Step 5: compute the bias for each user (b_u)
- Step 6: final formula creating a new URM

$$\tilde{r}_{ui} = \mu + b_i + b_u$$



Evaluation of Recommender Systems



FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS



FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

What the software does



FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

What the software does

NON-FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS



FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

What the software does

NON-FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

How the software does its job



RESPONSE TIME



RESPONSE TIME

 How long does it take for the system to generate one recommendation?



RESPONSE TIME

SCALABILITY



RESPONSE TIME

SCALABILITY

 How many recommendations per second the system is able to generate?



RESPONSE TIME

SCALABILITY

PRIVACY AND SECURITY



RESPONSE TIME

SCALABILITY

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

- Protect against reverse engineering
- Protect against intrusions from outside



RESPONSE TIME

SCALABILITY

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

USER INTERFACE



RESPONSE TIME

SCALABILITY

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

USER INTERFACE

- Which is the best place to show recommendations?
- How many items should be recommended?



Quality indicators for Recommender Systems



RELEVANCE



RELEVANCE

· Recommend items that users like



RELEVANCE

COVERAGE



RELEVANCE

COVERAGE

 Ability to recommend most of the items in a catalogue



RELEVANCE

COVERAGE

NOVELTY



RELEVANCE

COVERAGE

NOVELTY

Recommend items unknown to the user



RELEVANCE

COVERAGE

NOVELTY

DIVERSITY



RELEVANCE

COVERAGE

NOVELTY

DIVERSITY

Diversify the items recommended



RELEVANCE

COVERAGE

NOVELTY

DIVERSITY

CONSISTENCY



RELEVANCE

COVERAGE

NOVELTY

DIVERSITY

CONSISTENCY

 Recommendations should not change to often



RELEVANCE

COVERAGE

NOVELTY

DIVERSITY

CONSISTENCY

CONFIDENCE



RELEVANCE

COVERAGE

NOVELTY

DIVERSITY

CONSISTENCY

CONFIDENCE

How much a system is sure about a recommendation



RELEVANCE

COVERAGE

NOVELTY

DIVERSITY

CONSISTENCY

CONFIDENCE

SERENDIPITY



RELEVANCE

COVERAGE

NOVELTY

DIVERSITY

CONSISTENCY

CONFIDENCE

SERENDIPITY

- The ability of surprising the user
- The ability to recommend items that users would have never been able to discover by themselves



Evaluation Techniques



Evaluation Techniques

ONLINE



Evaluation Techniques

ONLINE

OFF-LINE



Online Evaluation

DIRECT USER FEEDBACK



Online Evaluation

DIRECT USER FEEDBACK





Online Evaluation

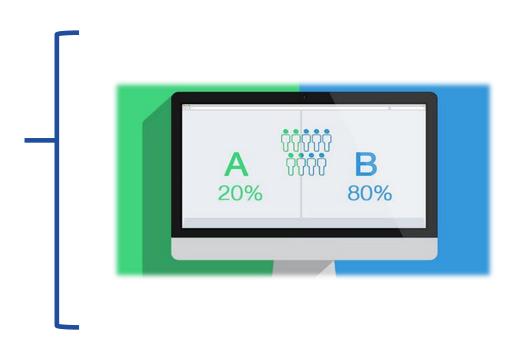
DIRECT USER FEEDBACK

A/B TESTING



DIRECT USER FEEDBACK

A/B TESTING





DIRECT USER FEEDBACK

A/B TESTING

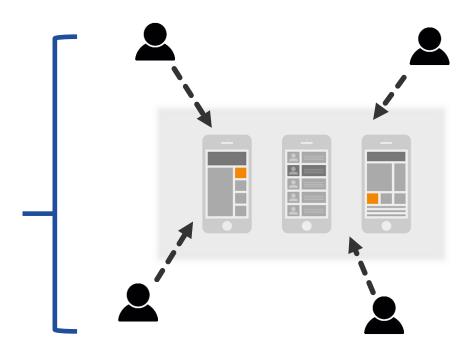
CONTROLLED EXPERIMENTS



DIRECT USER FEEDBACK

A/B TESTING

CONTROLLED EXPERIMENTS





DIRECT USER FEEDBACK

A/B TESTING

CONTROLLED EXPERIMENTS

CROWDSOURCING



DIRECT USER FEEDBACK

A/B TESTING

CONTROLLED EXPERIMENTS

CROWDSOURCING





TASK



TASK DATASET



TASK
DATASET
PARTITIONING

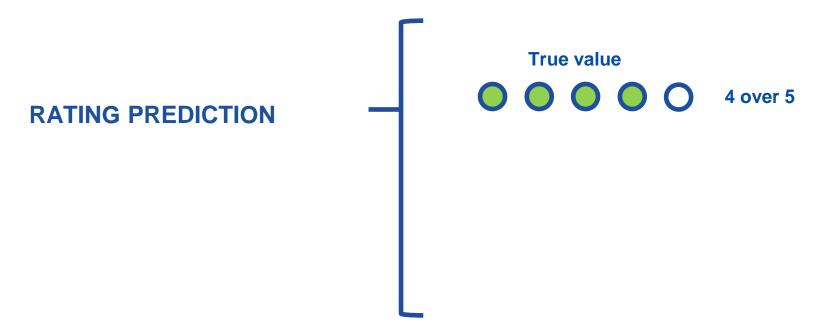


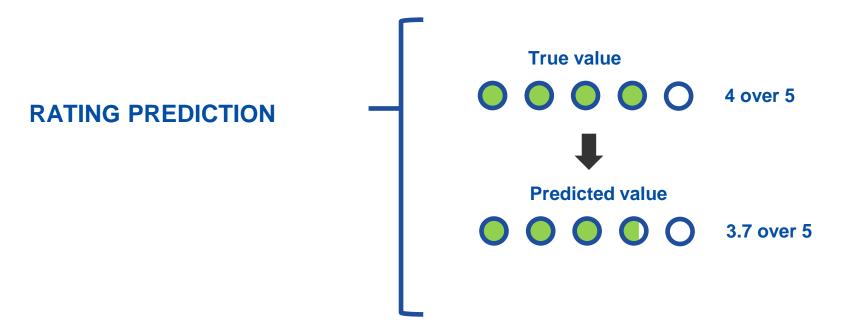
TASK
DATASET
PARTITIONING
METRICS



RATING PREDICTION









RATING PREDICTION

TOP-N RECOMMENDATION



RATING PREDICTION

TOP-N RECOMMENDATION



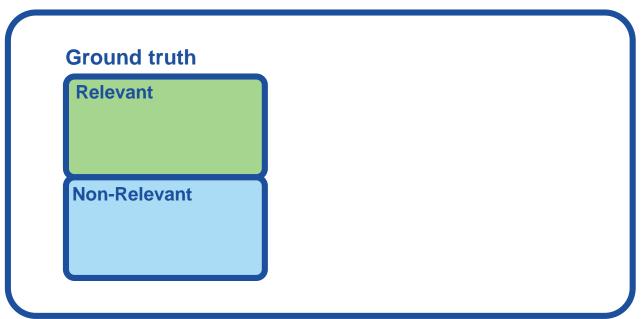


Off-line Evaluation: Dataset



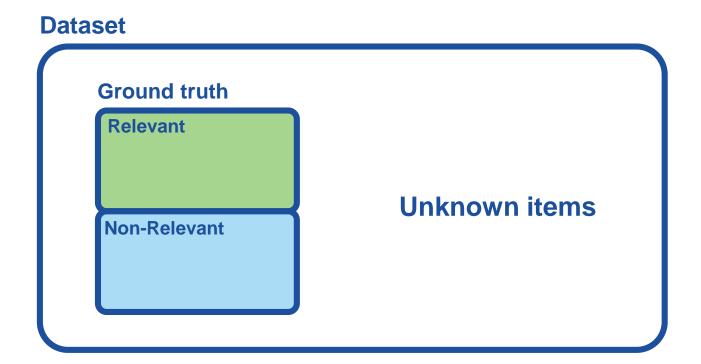
Off-line Evaluation: Dataset

Dataset





Off-line Evaluation: Dataset





Off-line Evaluation: Partitioning

- Model = f(URM)
- Estimated ratings = g(model, user profile)



Off-line Evaluation: Partitioning

- Model = f(URM)
- Estimated ratings = g(model, user profile)

```
E.G. Model = Star Wars is similar to Avatar
User profile = Paolo Cremonesi likes Star Wars
```



Off-line Evaluation: Partitioning

- Model = f(URM)
- Estimated ratings = g(model, user profile)

Estimated ratings ↔ True recommendation



Partitioning: Hold Out of Ratings

- Model = f(X)
- Estimated ratings = g(model, Y)
- Estimated ratings \leftrightarrow Z

Partitioning: Hold Out

- Model = f(X)
- Estimated ratings = g(model, Y)
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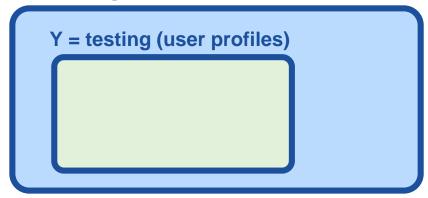
X = training



Partitioning: Hold Out of Ratings

- Model = f(X)
- Estimated ratings = g(model, Y)
- Estimated ratings ↔ Z

X = training

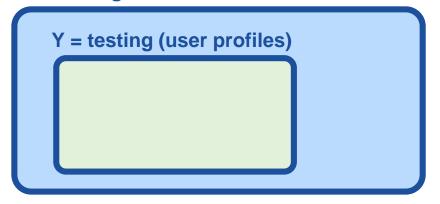




Partitioning: Hold Out of Ratings

- Model = f(X)
- Estimated ratings = g(model, Y)
- Estimated ratings ↔ Z

X = training



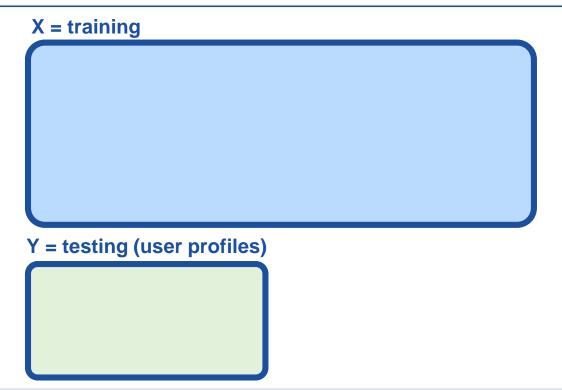




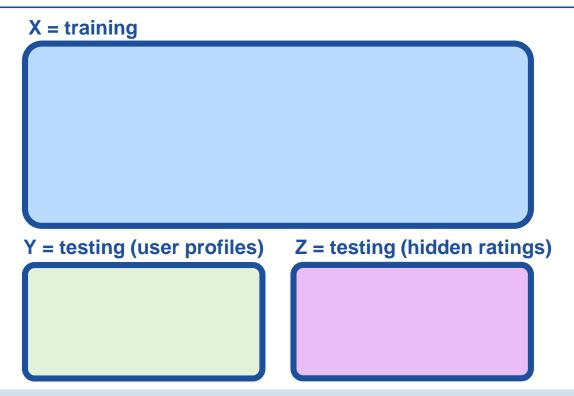
Partitioning: Hold Out of Users



Partitioning: Hold Out of Users



Partitioning: Hold Out of Users





True value r_{ui}









4 over 5



True value r_{ui}











4 over 5

Estimated value \hat{r}_{ui}











3.7 over 5



True value $r_{\mu i}$











4 over 5

Estimated value \hat{r}_{ui}











3.7 over 5

Error: $e_{ui} = r_{ui} - \hat{r}_{ui}$



True value $r_{\mu i}$













4 over 5











3.7 over 5

Error:
$$e_{ui} = r_{ui} - \hat{r}_{ui} = 4 - 3.7 = 0.3$$



True value r_{ni}

























3.7 over 5

Error:
$$e_{ui} = r_{ui} - \hat{r}_{ui} = 4 - 3.7 = 0.3$$

 \hat{r}_{ni} : rating estimated by the recommender system

 r_{ni} : true rating in the test set



Mean absolute error:

$$MAE = \frac{\sum_{u,i \in T} |r_{ui} - \hat{r}_{ui}|}{|T|}$$



Mean absolute error:

$$MAE = \frac{\sum_{u,i \in T} |r_{ui} - \hat{r}_{ui}|}{|T|}$$

Mean square error:

$$MSE = \frac{\Sigma_{u,i \in T} (r_{ui} - \hat{r}_{ui})^2}{|T|}$$

Mean absolute error:

$$MAE = \frac{\sum_{u,i \in T} |r_{ui} - \hat{r}_{ui}|}{|T|}$$

Mean square error:

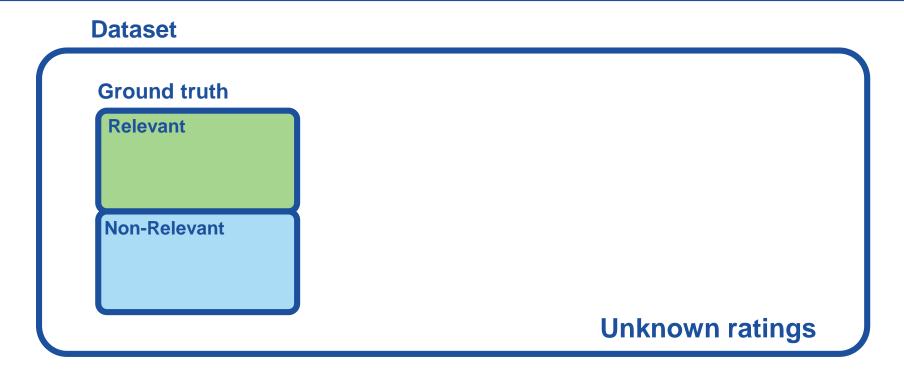
$$MSE = \frac{\sum_{u,i \in T} (r_{ui} - \hat{r}_{ui})^2}{|T|}$$

T: test set

 \hat{r}_{ui} : rating estimated by recommender system

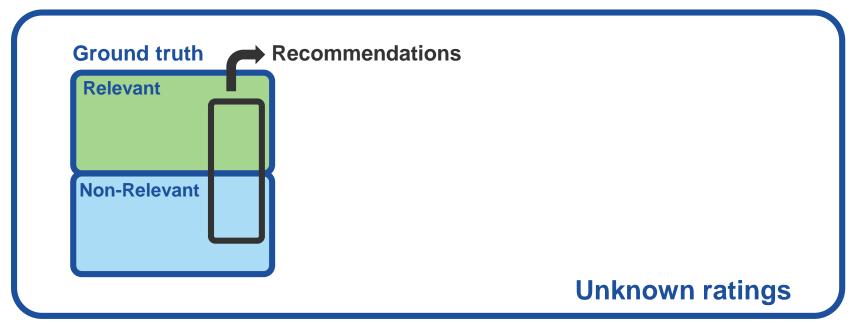
 r_{ui} : true rating in the test set





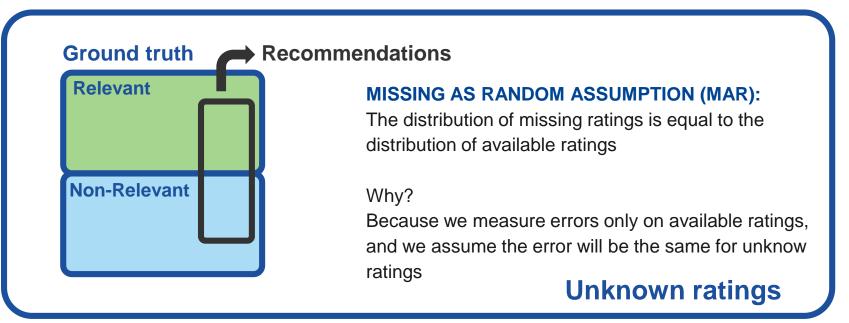


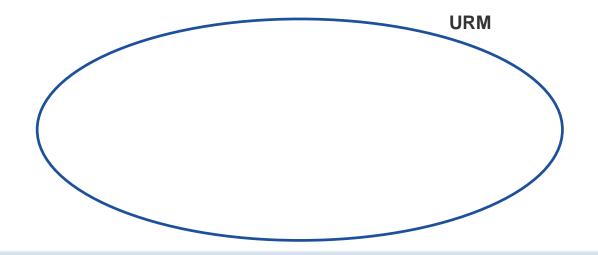
Off-line Evaluation: Error Metrics



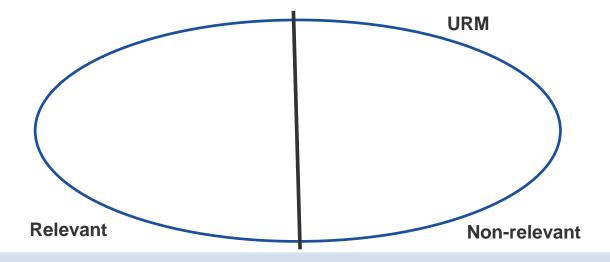


Off-line Evaluation: Error Metrics

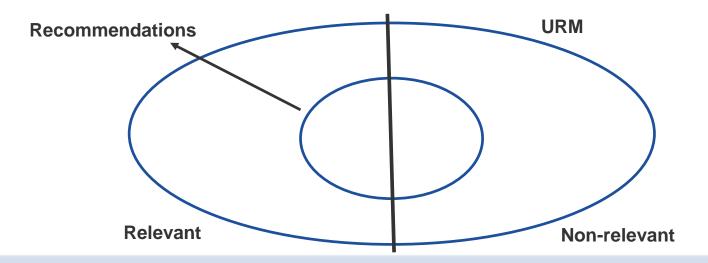




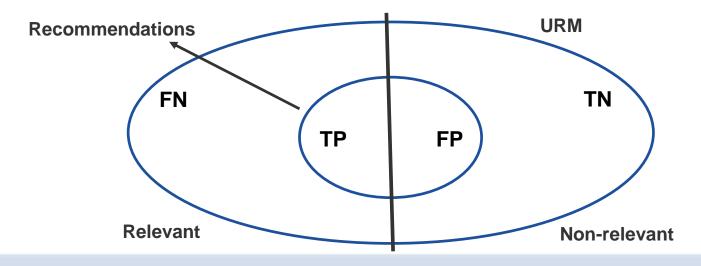




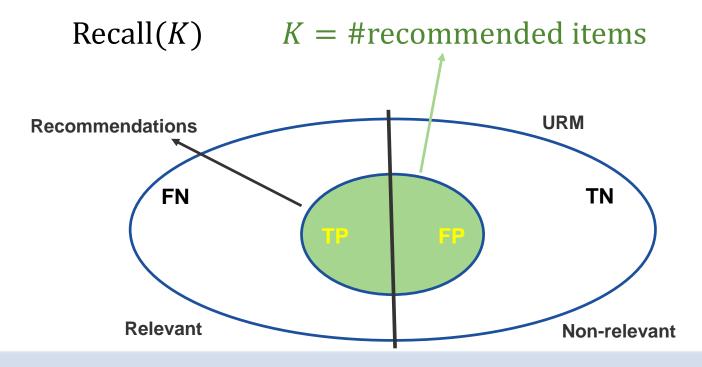






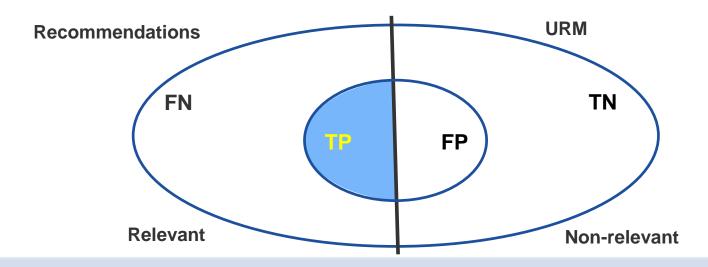






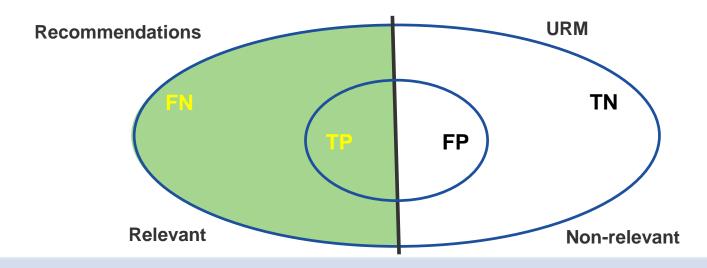


$$Recall(K) = \frac{\#relevant\ recommended\ items}{}$$



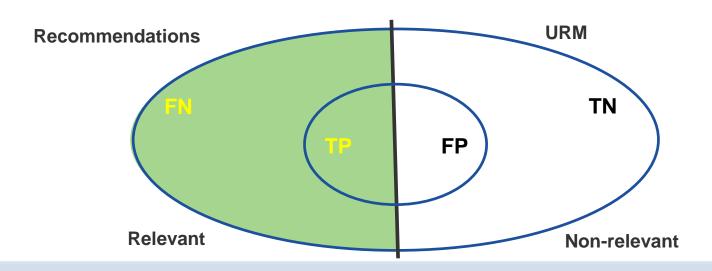


$$Recall(K) = \frac{\text{#relevant recommended items}}{\text{#tested relevant items}}$$



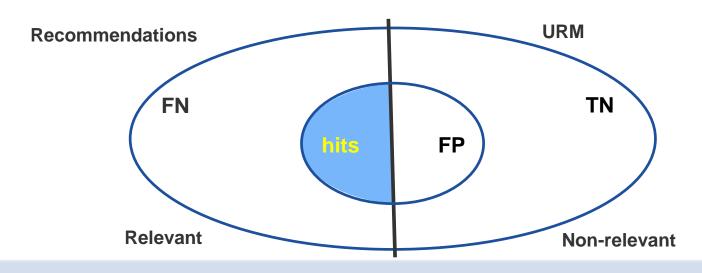


$$Recall(K) = \frac{\text{#relevant recommended items}}{\text{#tested relevant items}} = \frac{\text{TP}}{\text{FN + TP}}$$

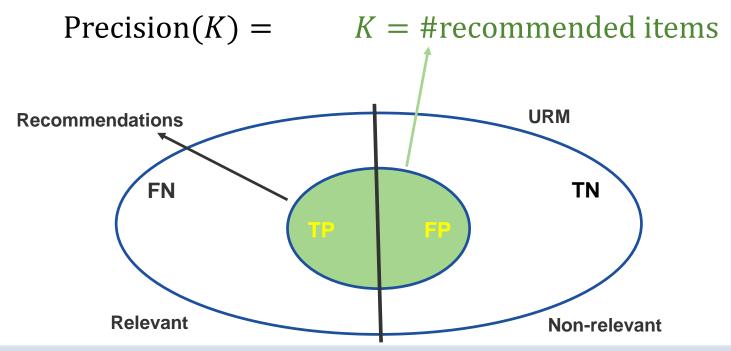




$$Recall(K) = \frac{\text{#relevant recommended items}}{\text{#tested relevant items}} = \frac{\text{#hits}}{\text{FN + TP}}$$

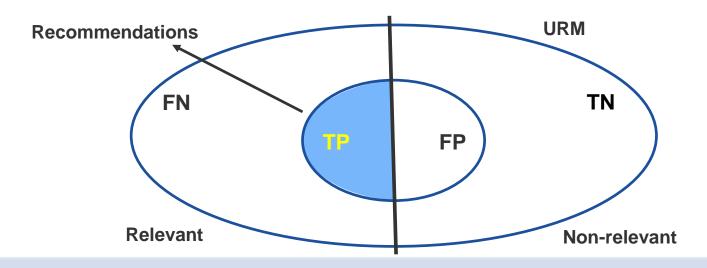






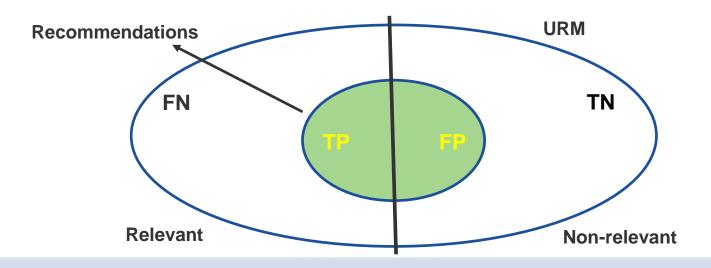


$$Precision(K) = \frac{\text{#relevant recommended items}}{}$$



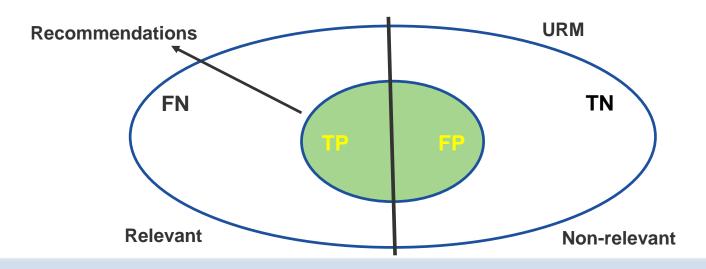


$$Precision(K) = \frac{\text{#relevant recommended items}}{\text{#all recommended items}}$$



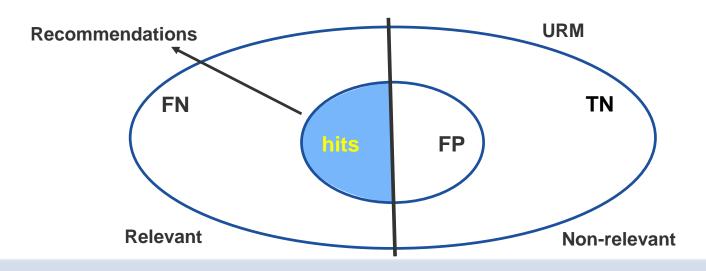


$$Precision(K) = \frac{\text{#relevant recommended items}}{\text{#all recommended items}} = \frac{\text{TP}}{\text{FP + TP}}$$

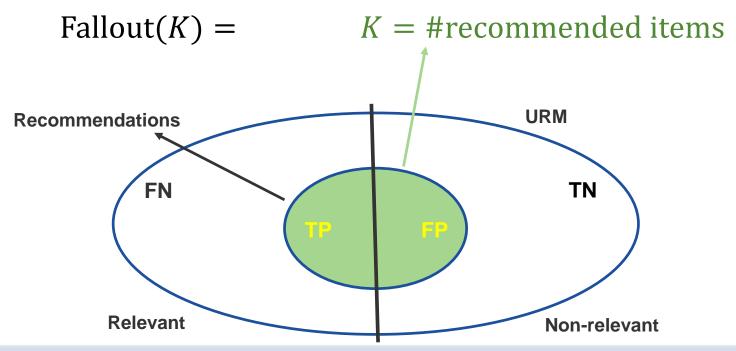




$$Precision(K) = \frac{\text{#relevant recommended items}}{\text{#all recommended items}} = \frac{\text{#hits}}{\text{FP + TP}}$$

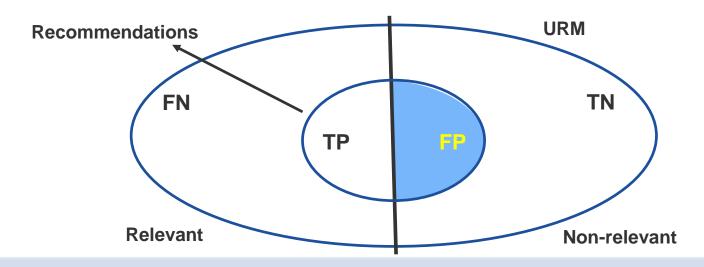






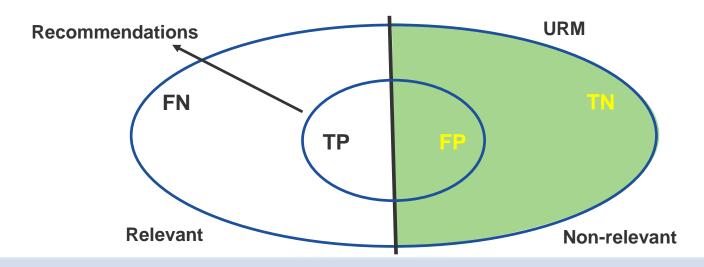


$$Fallout(K) = \frac{\#non \ relevant \ recommended \ items}{}$$



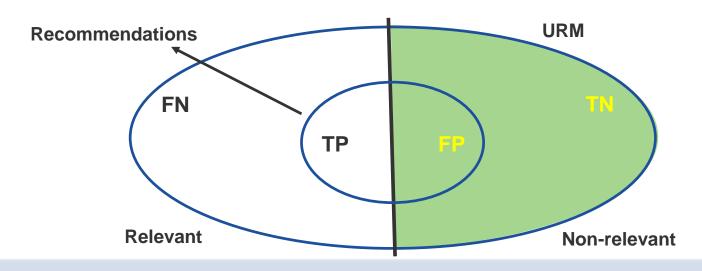


$$Fallout(K) = \frac{\text{#non relevant recommended items}}{\text{#all non relevant items}}$$



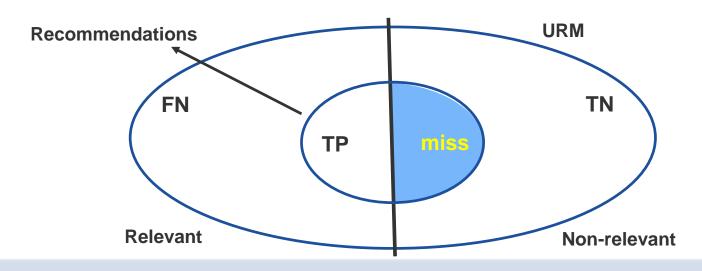


$$Fallout(K) = \frac{\text{#non relevant recommended items}}{\text{#all non relevant items}} = \frac{FP}{FP + TN}$$

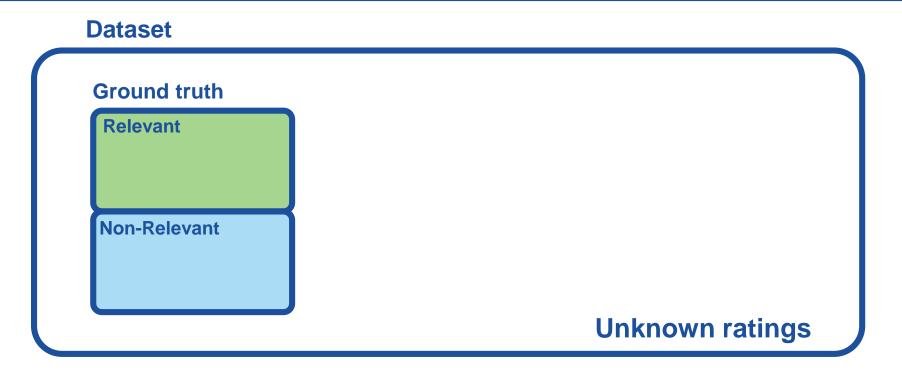




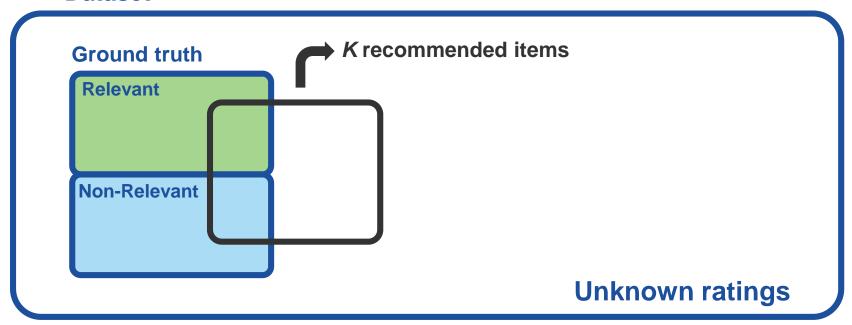
$$Fallout(K) = \frac{\text{#non relevant recommended items}}{\text{#all non relevant items}} = \frac{\text{#miss}}{\text{FP + TN}}$$



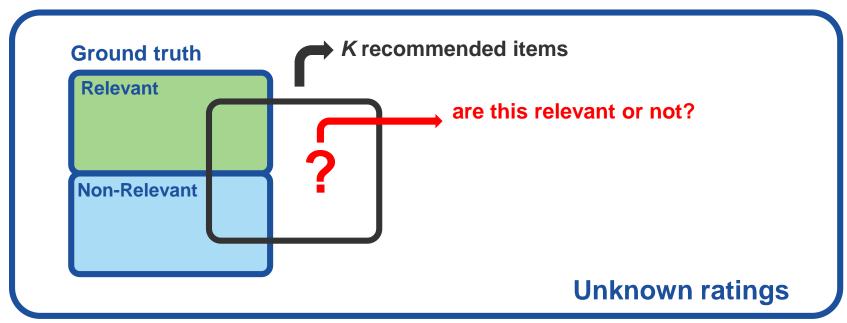




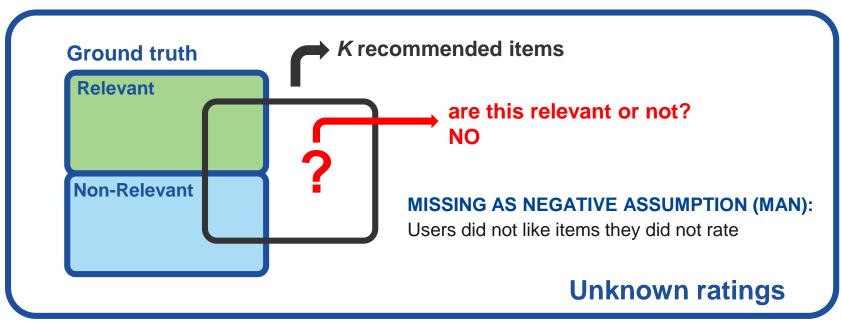














Precision

All-Missing-As-Negative (AMAN) hypothesis

- all missing ratings are irrelevant
- underestimate the true precision computed on the (unknown) complete data

Harald Steck, Training and testing of RSs on data missing not at random. In KDD '10



Recall

Missing-Not-At-Random (MNAR) hypothesis

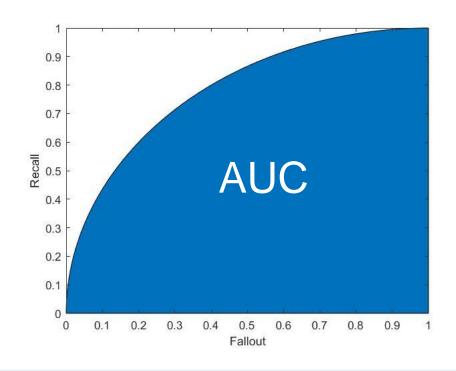
- non-relevant ratings are missing with a higher probability than relevant ratings
- (nearly) unbiased estimate of recall on the (unknown) complete data
- much milder than assuming that all the ratings are missing at random (MAE and RMSE) all missing ratings are irrelevant (Precision)



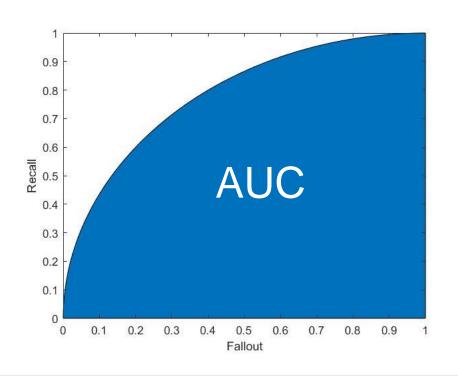
Ranking Metrics



ROC curve (area under curve)

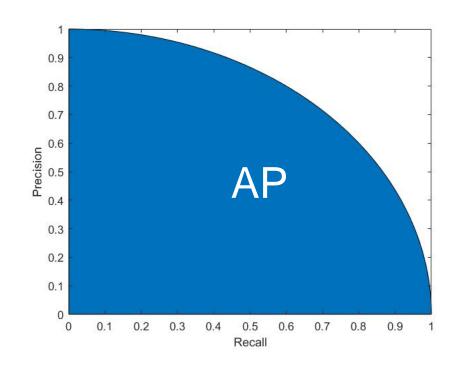


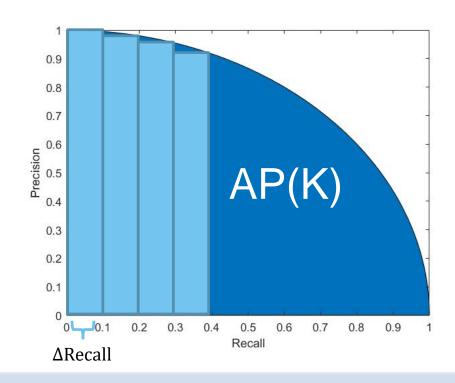
ROC curve (area under curve)



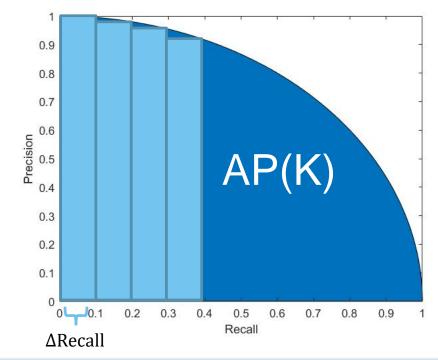
$$AUC = \Sigma_k \operatorname{Recall}(k) * \Delta \operatorname{Fallout}$$





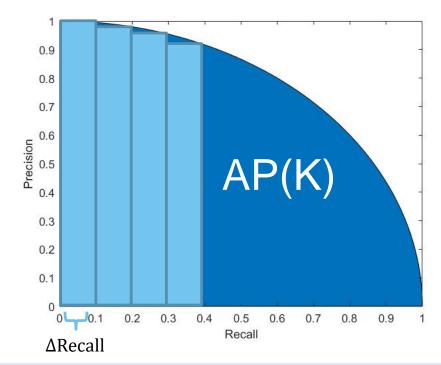






 $AP = \Sigma_k \operatorname{Precision}(k) * \Delta \operatorname{Recall}$

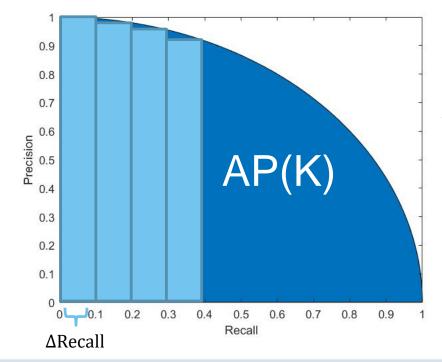




 $AP = \Sigma_k \operatorname{Precision}(k) * \Delta \operatorname{Recall}$

 $\Delta \text{Recall} = \text{Recall}(k) - \text{Recall}(k-1)$





$$AP = \Sigma_k \operatorname{Precision}(k) * \Delta \operatorname{Recall}$$

$$MAP = \frac{\Sigma_u A P_u}{\text{#users}}$$



Average Reciprocal Hit-Rank

Weighted version of recall

$$ARHR = \frac{\sum_{i} \frac{1}{\text{rank(i)}}}{\text{\#tested relevant items}}$$

Average Reciprocal Hit-Rank

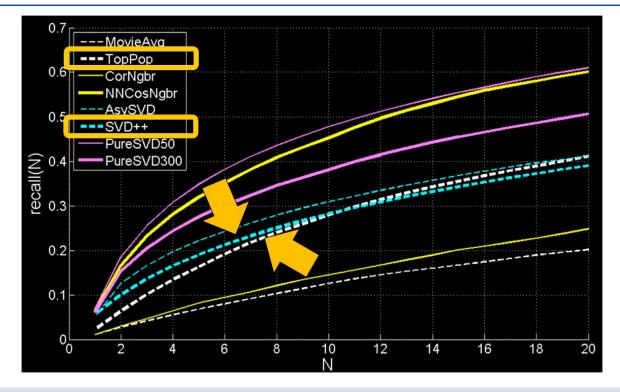
Weighted version of recall

$$ARHR = \frac{\sum_{i} \frac{1}{\text{rank(i)}}}{\text{\#tested relevant items}}$$

i: **relevant** item recommended to the user rank(i): position of item i in the list of recommendations

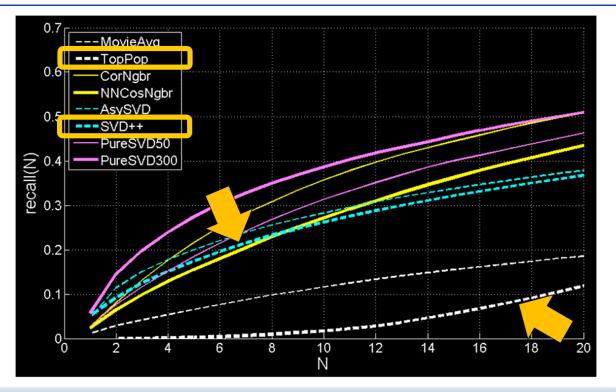


Netflix dataset: recall





Netflix dataset: recall on long tail





Evaluation: are we really making much progress?

Conference	Rep. / Non-rep.	Reproducible
KDD	3/4 (75%)	[17], [23], [48]
RecSys	1/7 (14%)	[53]
SIGIR	1/3 (30%)	[10]
WWW	2/4 (50%)	[14], [24]
Total	7/18 (39%)	

Non-reproducible: KDD: [43], RecSys: [41], [6], [38],

[44], [21], [45], SIGIR: [32], [7], WWW: [42], [11]

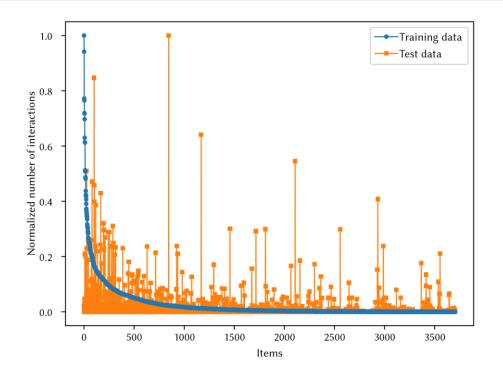


Evaluation: are we really making much progress?

	CiteULike-a				
	HR@5	NDCG@5	HR@10	NDCG@10	
TopPopular	0.1803	0.1220	0.2783	0.1535	
UserKNN	0.8213	0.7033	0.8935	0.7268	
ItemKNN	0.8116	0.6939	0.8878	0.7187	
$P^3\alpha$	0.8202	0.7061	0.8901	0.7289	
$RP^3\beta$	0.8226	0.7114	0.8941	0.7347	
CMN	0.8069	0.6666	0.8910	0.6942	



Evaluation: are we really making much progress?





Evaluating Non Accuracy Metrics



Measuring Diversity

diversity =
$$\frac{\Sigma_{i,j} 1 - \text{similarity}(i,j)}{N(N-1)}$$

Measuring Diversity

diversity =
$$\frac{\Sigma_{i,j} 1 - \text{similarity}(i,j)}{N(N-1)}$$

N: total number of items *i,j*: considered items





 $novelty \approx 1/popularity$



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novelty =
$$\frac{\sum_{i \in \text{hits}} \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{\text{popularity}(i)} \right)}{\text{#hits}}$$



 $novelty \approx 1/popularity$

$$novelty = \frac{\sum_{i \in hits} log_2 \left(\frac{1}{popularity(i)}\right)}{\text{#hits}}$$

popularity(i) =
% of users who rated item i



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