

Key Features

- Multiple Recommendation Approaches:
 - o Content-based filtering (genres, tags)
 - User-based and item-based collaborative filtering
 - SVD-based matrix factorization
 - Hybrid and ensemble models (XGBoost, LightGBM, CatBoost)
- Streamlit Web App:
 - Interactive UI for recommendations, analytics, and model performance
 - o Visualizations: rating distributions, genre popularity, user activity, model comparisons
 - A/B testing simulator for business impact analysis
- Comprehensive Evaluation:
 - o Metrics: RMSE, MAE, Precision@K, Recall@K, MAP, NDCG
 - o Business-focused insights for deployment and user engagement

Data Description

- Source: MovieLens ml-latest-small
- Size: 100,836 ratings, 3,683 tags, 9,742 movies, 610 users
- Files:
 - movies.csv : Movie metadata (title, genres)
 - ratings.csv : User ratings (userId, movieId, rating, timestamp)
 - tags.csv: User-generated tags
 - links.csv: External links to IMDb and TMDb
- Preprocessing:
 - Merging, cleaning, and feature engineering (genres, tags, user/movie stats)
 - Removal of users/movies with <5 ratings to reduce sparsity
 - One-hot encoding, normalization, and timestamp conversion

Installation

1. Clone the repository:

git clone https://github.com/CollinsNyatundo/movielens_recommender_system.git
cd datascience

Q

2. (Optional) Create and activate a virtual environment:

python -m venv ds-env
On Windows:
ds-env\Scripts\activate

Q

On Unix/Mac:
source ds-env/bin/activate

3. Install dependencies:

pip install -r requirements.txt



Usage

Run the Streamlit App

streamlit run app.py



- Open the provided local URL in your browser to interact with the MovieLens Recommendation System.
- Explore recommendations, analytics, and model performance through the web interface.

Jupyter Notebook

- The full modeling pipeline, data exploration, and evaluation are documented in index.ipynb .
- Open the notebook in JupyterLab or VSCode to review and experiment with the code.

Methodology

1. Data Preprocessing:

- Load and merge MovieLens data files
- Clean missing values, engineer features (genres, tags, user/movie stats)
- Normalize ratings, reduce sparsity

2. Model Development:

- Content-based filtering (TF-IDF + Nearest Neighbors)
- o User-based and item-based collaborative filtering
- SVD-based matrix factorization
- Advanced ensemble models (XGBoost, LightGBM, CatBoost)
- Hybrid and stacking approaches

3. Evaluation:

- Metrics: RMSE, MAE, Precision@K, Recall@K, MAP, NDCG
- o Business impact: A/B testing simulator, engagement metrics

Results

- Content-Based Filtering:
 - o Precision@5: 0.0

- o Recall@5: 0.0
- User-Based Collaborative Filtering:
 - o Precision@5: 0.6000
 - o Recall@5: 0.0154
 - RMSE: 0.9407MAE: 0.7323
- SVD-based Collaborative Filtering:
 - Precision@5: 0.8000
 - o Recall@5: 0.0205
 - o RMSE: 1.9754
 - o MAE: 1.5697
- Hybrid Model (Collaborative + Content-Based):
 - o Precision@5: 0.8000
 - o Recall@5: 0.0205
- Ensemble (XGBoost, LightGBM, CatBoost):
 - o XGBoost RMSE: 0.7995
 - (See notebook for additional ensemble metrics)
- Business Impact:
 - Demonstrated improvements in simulated click-through, conversion, and engagement rates
- Scalability:
 - o Efficient for large user-item matrices; handles cold-start scenarios

App Features

- Recommendation Types:
 - o Ensemble (XGBoost + SVD), Pure SVD, Content-Based
- User Profile Analytics:
 - o Movies rated, average rating, activity timeline
- Analytics Dashboard:
 - o Rating distribution, genre popularity, user activity, genre correlation heatmap
- Model Performance:
 - o Comparison table, feature importance, tree model plots
- A/B Testing Simulator:
 - o Compare SVD vs. ensemble on simulated business metrics (CTR, conversion, engagement)
- About Section:
 - o Technical stack, model details, performance summary

License & Citation

- Data License: See MovieLens Terms of Use
- Citation:

F. Maxwell Harper and Joseph A. Konstan. 2015. The MovieLens Datasets: History and Context. ACM Transactions on Interactive Intelligent Systems (TiiS) 5, 4: 19:1–19:19. https://doi.org/10.1145/2827872

Contributing & Contact

