# Movie recommendation using the MovieLens dataset

Felipe Urrego 02/03/2019

### Introduction

#### • What is Machine Learning?

In simple words, we can say that it is just a problem of approximation of a function or a relationship with the purpose to obtain new information. It can be any function of any complexity. It can even do not exist, in this case, we assume that there is a kind of law of nature or a relationship that we want to approximate.

#### Notations

We note this function f(x) and its values y = f(x) (or  $y = f(x) + \epsilon$  where  $\epsilon$  is random). Conventions for x and y depend on the field of science - Machine Learning or Statistical Learning - they are a bit different.

x / Features / Independent Variables (it's not the case for the raw data, but we should treat it in order to get only independent variables, for example, with help of PCA - Principal Component Analysis). y / Label / Dependent Variable.

x can be a vector (vector of features), its length is the number of independent variables. y is usually a scalar value.

Observation is one couple  $\{x,y\}$  or just one x.

There are different types of Machine Learning problems, but we now consider Supervised Learning problem, it is when we have labels as described.

#### • Problem formulation

We have two sets of data, one is labelled (it has x and y and called 'train/training set') and another not (it has only x and called 'test set'). Train set is  $\{x_i, y_i\}_{i=0,1..n}$ , where n is the number of observations (they ideally should be independent).

The objective is to get y for the test set (we say to predict or to forecast). So, we choose a Machine Learning model g and train (or fit) it on the train set (calibrate its internal parameters) so that g(x) looks similar to y for  $\{x,y\}$  in the train set. We quantify "look similar" by introducing a function to minimise called Error Measure. Thus, g is our approximation of f and g(x) for x in the test set (called Prediction) is our guess of y for the test set as asked.

#### • Error measure

There are different error measures (also called Loss/Cost/Objective Functions), but here we use the most common one - Root Mean Square Error (RMSE), for a model g:

$$RMSE(g) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1..n} (y_i - g(x_i))^2}$$

#### Overfitting

Almost always the data we have is not a pure reflection of a law of nature but also of some noises (it is why it is hard to find  $g \equiv f$ ) and if we consider a model too complicated for the problem, it can also fit the noise, as

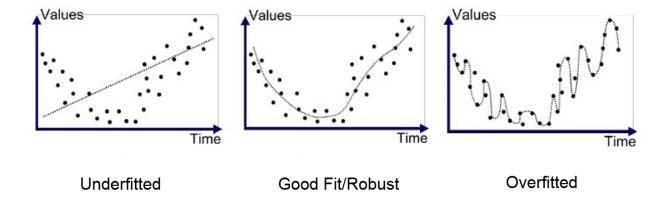


Figure 1: Overfitting

on the figure below. A model that is too simple is not a good choice neither. In order to find a suitable model from a set of models, we need to test models on data that was not used in the training. For this purpose we divide the train set into two parts (80% and 20%), then we train each model on 80% data and compare its predictions over the 20% data with the real labels. It gives a RMSE per model, and a model with the smallest RMSE is the winner.

#### • MovieLens

In the current project, we consider the MovieLens 10M database, it consists of movies and users ratings and we want to be able to say which rating a specific user would give to a specific movie (in order to know what to propose to watch to this user). It consists of 10 million of ratings (10 M rows), for each rating we have a user ID, a time when the rating was given and a movie ID. Each movie has a title (equivalent to movie ID) with the year of production, an and a set of genres (a movie can have multiple genres).

## Preprocessing

```
# List of packages we need
list_of_packages <- list("randomForest",</pre>
                          "kableExtra",
                          "tidyverse",
                          "lubridate",
                          "corrplot",
                          "ggplot2",
                          "readxl",
                          "dslabs",
                          "knitr",
                          "mlr")
# Function that loads and installs if necessary indicated packages
UsePackages = function(list_of_packages) {
  for (p in list_of_packages){
    # if (!is.element(p, installed.packages()[,1]))
       install.packages(p)
    require(p, character.only = TRUE)
  }
```

```
UsePackages(list_of_packages)

# precision
prec <- 3

# data frame to stock results
results <- tibble()
</pre>
```

### Create test and validation sets

```
Create edx set (train set) and validation set (test and validation set in the same time)
# Note: this process could take a couple of minutes
if(!require(tidyverse)) install.packages("tidyverse", repos = "http://cran.us.r-project.org")
if(!require(caret)) install.packages("caret", repos = "http://cran.us.r-project.org")
# MovieLens 10M dataset:
# https://grouplens.org/datasets/movielens/10m/
# http://files.grouplens.org/datasets/movielens/ml-10m.zip
# Avoid downloading data we already have
if (file.exists("ml-10M100K/ratings.dat") & file.exists("ml-10M100K/movies.dat")){
 ratings <- read.table(text = gsub("::", "\t", readLines("ml-10M100K/ratings.dat")),</pre>
                         col.names = c("userId", "movieId", "rating", "timestamp"))
 movies <- str_split_fixed(readLines("ml-10M100K/movies.dat"), "\\::", 3)</pre>
}else{
 dl <- tempfile()</pre>
  download.file("http://files.grouplens.org/datasets/movielens/ml-10m.zip", dl)
 ratings <- read.table(text = gsub("::", "\t", readLines(unzip(dl, "ml-10M100K/ratings.dat"))),</pre>
                         col.names = c("userId", "movieId", "rating", "timestamp"))
 movies <- str_split_fixed(readLines(unzip(dl, "ml-10M100K/movies.dat")), "\\::", 3)</pre>
}
# Treat data
colnames(movies) <- c("movieId", "title", "genres")</pre>
movies <- as.data.frame(movies) %>% mutate(movieId = as.numeric(levels(movieId))[movieId],
                                             title = as.character(title),
                                             genres = as.character(genres))
movielens <- left_join(ratings, movies, by = "movieId")</pre>
# Validation set will be 10% of MovieLens data
set.seed(1)
```

test\_index <- createDataPartition(y = movielens\$rating, times = 1, p = 0.1, list = FALSE)

```
edx <- movielens[-test_index,]
temp <- movielens[test_index,]

# Make sure userId and movieId in validation set are also in edx set
validation <- temp %>%
    semi_join(edx, by = "movieId") %>%
    semi_join(edx, by = "userId")

# Add rows removed from validation set back into edx set
removed <- anti_join(temp, validation)
edx <- rbind(edx, removed)

rm(dl, ratings, movies, test_index, temp, movielens, removed)

# change the format from 'data.frame' to 'tibble'. And blend the rows
edx <- as_tibble(edx)[sample(1:nrow(edx)),]
validation <- as_tibble(validation)[sample(1:nrow(validation)),]</pre>
```

### Feature Selection and Feature Engineering

Feature Selection means that we remove irrelevant variables that only add noise.

Feature Engineering means that we add new variables.

#### Year of production and year of rating

```
# extract year from the title and remove title
edx <- edx %>%
  extract(title, "year", regex="\\(([0-9 \\-]*)\\)$") %>% mutate(year=as.integer(year))
validation <- validation %>%
  extract(title, "year", regex="\\(([0-9 \\-]*)\\)$") %>% mutate(year=as.integer(year))

# timestamp to year of the publication of rating
edx <- edx %>%
  mutate(timestamp = as.integer(year(as_datetime(timestamp))))
validation <- validation %>%
  mutate(timestamp = as.integer(year(as_datetime(timestamp))))

Add mean/median rating per year

df_years <- edx %>% group_by(year) %>%
  summarise(mean_per_year=mean(rating), median_per_year=median(rating))
edx <- edx %>% left_join(df_years, by="year")
```

#### Genres

```
# data frame of genres and its numbers
(df_genres <- edx %>%
```

```
separate_rows(genres, sep = "\\|") %>%
  group_by(genres) %>%
  summarise(number = n(), mean_rating = mean(rating)) %>%
  arrange(desc(number)))
## # A tibble: 20 x 3
##
      genres
                          number mean_rating
      <chr>
##
                          <int>
                                       <dbl>
## 1 Drama
                         3910127
                                        3.67
## 2 Comedy
                         3540930
                                        3.44
                         2560545
## 3 Action
                                        3.42
## 4 Thriller
                         2325899
                                        3.51
## 5 Adventure
                                        3.49
                        1908892
## 6 Romance
                         1712100
                                        3.55
## 7 Sci-Fi
                                        3.40
                        1341183
## 8 Crime
                        1327715
                                        3.67
## 9 Fantasy
                         925637
                                        3.50
                         737994
## 10 Children
                                         3.42
## 11 Horror
                         691485
                                         3.27
## 12 Mystery
                        568332
                                         3.68
                         511147
                                        3.78
## 13 War
## 14 Animation
                        467168
                                        3.60
## 15 Musical
                                        3.56
                          433080
## 16 Western
                         189394
                                        3.56
## 17 Film-Noir
                          118541
                                         4.01
## 18 Documentary
                           93066
                                        3.78
## 19 IMAX
                            8181
                                        3.77
## 20 (no genres listed)
                                        3.64
                               7
Divide 'genres' into separate genres
#' create a data.frame with dummy genres columns from a list of mixed genres
GetDummyGenres <- function(my_vector, my_genres){</pre>
  df2 <- sapply(my_vector,</pre>
                function(x){
                  zeros <- rep(0,length(my_genres))</pre>
                  x \leftarrow strsplit(x, "\\|")[[1]] # split by char "/" into two strings
                  zeros[match(x, my_genres)] <- 1</pre>
                  return(as.integer(zeros))
                },
                USE.NAMES=FALSE) %>% t
  colnames(df2) <- my_genres</pre>
  df2 <- df2 %>% as_tibble # %>% select(-`(no genres listed)`)# %>% mutate_all(as.factor)
  return(df2)
}
# movies and its genres
df_movies <- edx %>% group_by(movieId) %>%
  summarise("mean_per_movie"=mean(rating),
            "median_per_movie"=median(rating),
            "number"=n(),
            "genres" = genres[1])
df_movies <- df_movies %>% bind_cols(GetDummyGenres(.$genres, df_genres$genres))
```

A movie can have multiple genres, so can estimate its rating as average of average ratings per genres

```
(df_movies <- df_movies %>%
  mutate(mean_per_genre =
           rowSums(as.matrix(df_movies %>% select(df_genres$genres)) * df_genres$mean_rating) /
           rowSums(df_movies %>% select(df_genres$genres))) %>%
   select(mean_per_genre, names(df_movies)))
## # A tibble: 10,677 x 26
##
      mean_per_genre movieId mean_per_movie median_per_movie number genres
##
               <dbl>
                       <dbl>
                                      <dbl>
                                                       <dbl>
                                                              <int> <chr>
##
                3.67
                           1
                                       3.93
                                                           4 23790 Adven~
## 2
                3.59
                           2
                                       3.21
                                                           3 10779 Adven~
## 3
                3.65
                           3
                                       3.15
                                                           3
                                                              7028 Comed~
                                                           3 1577 Comed~
## 4
                3.56
                                       2.86
                           4
## 5
                3.44
                           5
                                       3.07
                                                           3
                                                               6400 Comedy
##
  6
                           6
                3.72
                                       3.82
                                                           4 12346 Actio~
##
  7
                3.59
                           7
                                       3.36
                                                           3
                                                              7259 Comed~
## 8
                3.61
                           8
                                       3.13
                                                           3
                                                                821 Adven~
                3.42
                           9
                                       3.00
                                                               2278 Action
##
## 10
                3.65
                          10
                                       3.43
                                                           3 15187 Actio~
## # ... with 10,667 more rows, and 20 more variables: Drama <int>,
       Comedy <int>, Action <int>, Thriller <int>, Adventure <int>,
## #
       Romance <int>, `Sci-Fi` <int>, Crime <int>, Fantasy <int>,
## #
      Children <int>, Horror <int>, Mystery <int>, War <int>,
       Animation <int>, Musical <int>, Western <int>, `Film-Noir` <int>,
      Documentary <int>, IMAX <int>, `(no genres listed)` <int>
## #
edx <- edx %>% left_join(df_movies %>% select(movieId, mean_per_genre), by="movieId")
```

### Add mean/median rating per movie

```
edx <- edx %>%
left_join(df_movies %>% select(movieId, mean_per_movie, median_per_movie), by="movieId")
```

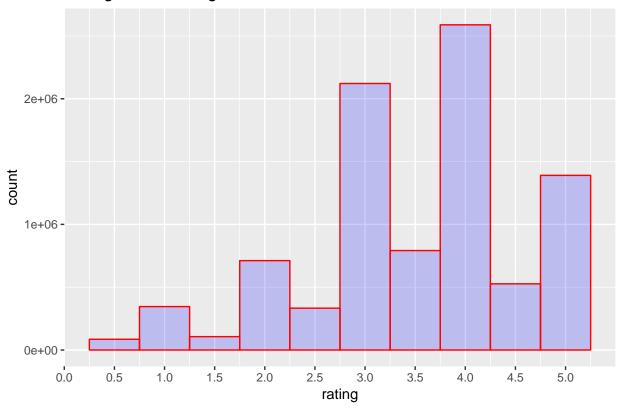
### Add mean/median rating per user

## Data Summary and Data Visualisation

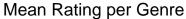
```
# summary
print(summary(edx))
                      movieId
##
       userId
                                       rating
                                                     timestamp
         :
                1
                   Min.
                          :
                               1
                                   Min.
                                          :0.500
                                                   Min.
                                                          :1995
## 1st Qu.:18124
                   1st Qu.: 648
                                   1st Qu.:3.000
                                                   1st Qu.:2000
## Median :35738
                                   Median :4.000
                   Median: 1834
                                                   Median:2002
```

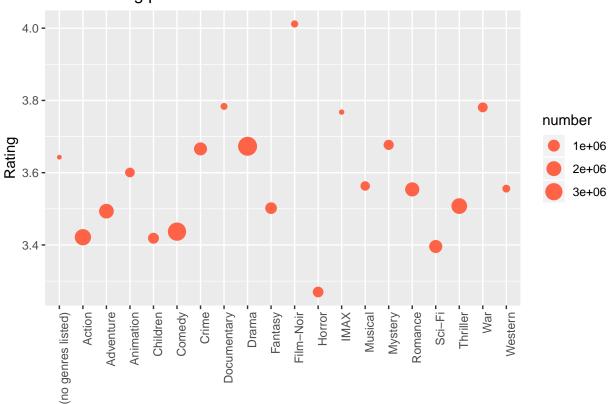
```
## Mean
          :35870
                  Mean : 4122
                                 Mean
                                       :3.512
                                                Mean
                                                       :2002
##
   3rd Qu.:53607
                  3rd Qu.: 3626
                                 3rd Qu.:4.000
                                                3rd Qu.:2005
                  Max. :65133
                                 Max. :5.000
  Max. :71567
                                                Max.
                                                       :2009
##
                                   mean_per_year
                                                  median_per_year
        year
                    genres
## Min.
         :1915
                 Length:9000055
                                   Min. :3.285
                                                  Min.
                                                        :3.000
##
  1st Qu.:1987
                 Class :character
                                   1st Qu.:3.431
                                                 1st Qu.:3.500
## Median :1994
                 Mode :character
                                   Median :3.460 Median :3.500
## Mean :1990
                                   Mean :3.512 Mean :3.589
##
   3rd Qu.:1998
                                   3rd Qu.:3.530
                                                  3rd Qu.:3.500
## Max.
         :2008
                                                  Max. :4.000
                                   Max. :4.053
## mean_per_genre mean_per_movie
                                 median_per_movie mean_per_user
## Min. :3.270
                  Min. :0.500
                                       :0.500
                                                       :0.500
                                 Min.
                                                 Min.
                  1st Qu.:3.218
                                 1st Qu.:3.000
                                                 1st Qu.:3.252
## 1st Qu.:3.514
## Median :3.581
                  Median :3.591
                                 Median :4.000
                                                 Median :3.529
## Mean
         :3.585
                  Mean :3.512
                                 Mean
                                       :3.598
                                                 Mean
                                                       :3.512
## 3rd Qu.:3.649
                  3rd Qu.:3.876
                                 3rd Qu.:4.000
                                                 3rd Qu.:3.800
## Max.
         :4.012
                  Max. :5.000
                                 Max. :5.000
                                                 Max. :5.000
## median per user
## Min. :0.500
## 1st Qu.:3.000
## Median :4.000
## Mean :3.607
## 3rd Qu.:4.000
## Max.
        :5.000
# check if there are NA in data
cat("Number of rows containing NA :", edx %>% filter(!complete.cases(.)) %>% nrow, "\n")
## Number of rows containing NA: 0
cat("Number of users :", nrow(df users), "\n")
## Number of users : 69878
cat("Number of movies :", nrow(df movies), "\n")
## Number of movies: 10677
# plot a Histogram of Ratings
ggplot(edx, aes(rating)) +
 geom histogram(binwidth=0.5, fill=I("blue"), col=I("red"), alpha=I(.2)) +
 ggtitle("Histogram of Ratings") +
 scale x continuous(breaks=seq(0,5,.5))
```

## Histogram of Ratings



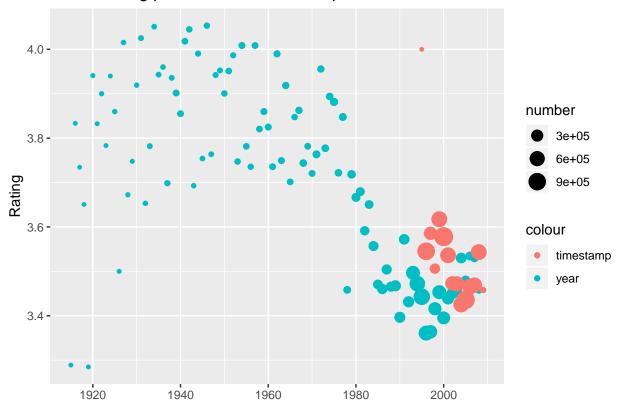
```
# plot Mean Rating per Genre
ggplot(df_genres) + ggtitle("Mean Rating per Genre") + xlab(NULL) + ylab("Rating") +
    theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 90, hjust = 1)) +
    geom_point(aes(genres, mean_rating, size=number), col="tomato")
```



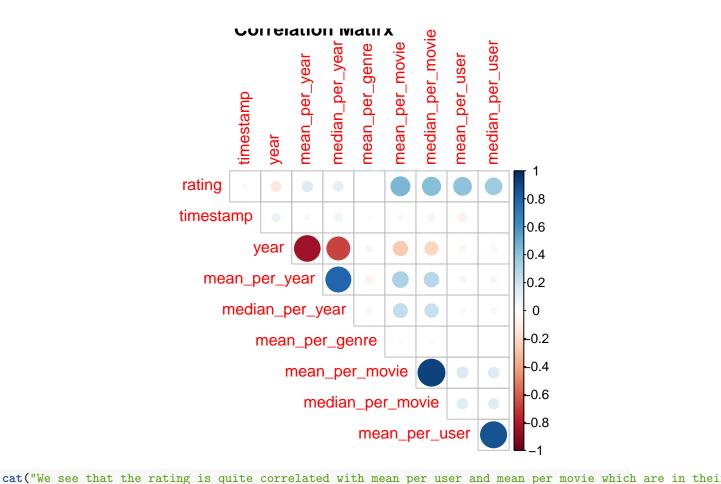


cat("We clearly see that the number of movies produced per year increases with time while the mean ration

# Mean Rating per Year and Timestamp



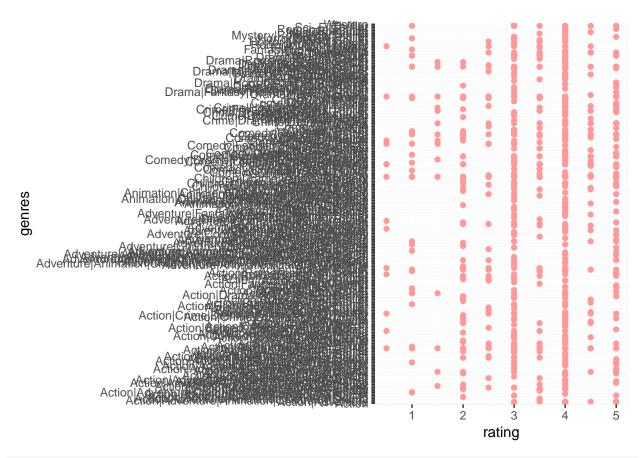
# plot correlations
corrplot(cor(edx %>% select(-c(genres, movieId, userId))), type="upper", diag=FALSE, title="Correlation"



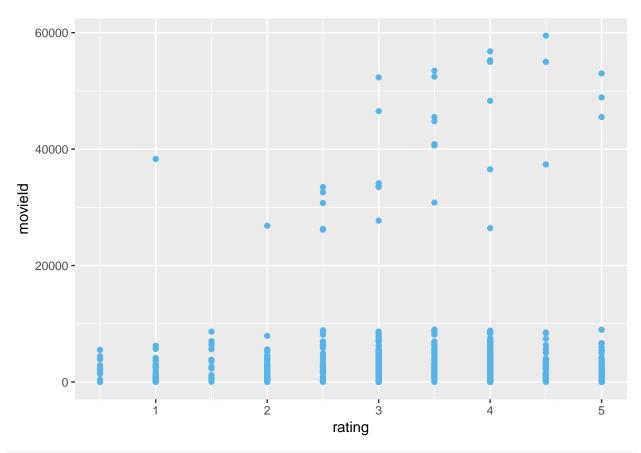
## We see that the rating is quite correlated with mean per user and mean per movie which are in their

```
# edx is too big to plot it all, so the next analysis is done over a small part of edx
edx_short <- edx[1:1000,]

# plot ratings vs other variables
ggplot(edx_short) + geom_point(aes(rating, genres), col="#FF9999")</pre>
```



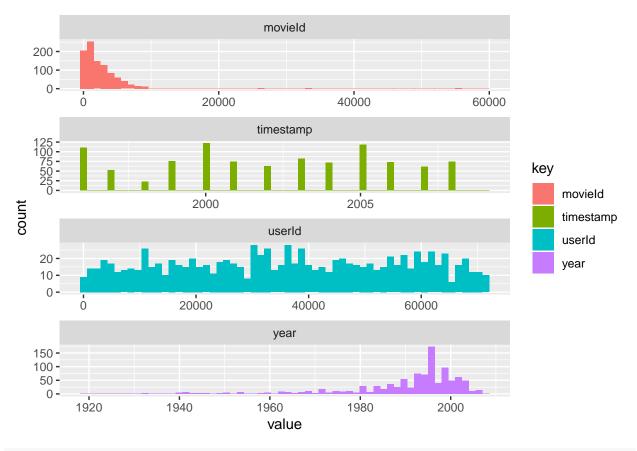
ggplot(edx\_short) + geom\_point(aes(rating, movieId), col="#56B4E9")



cat("we can see that some ratings are less frequant for some generes\n")

## we can see that some ratings are less frequant for some generes

```
# plot histrograms
# df <- gather(edx_short %>% select(-c("genres", "timestamp")))
df <- gather(edx_short %>% select(userId, movieId, timestamp, year))
ggplot(df, aes(value, fill=key)) +
  facet_wrap(~key, scales="free", ncol=1) +
  geom_histogram(bins=60)
```



cat("We see that our data is not homogeneous\n")

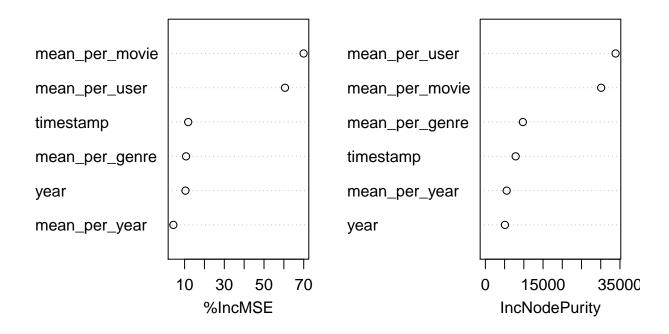
## We see that our data is not homogeneous

# Conclusion
cat("We do not see any obvious pattern that would certainly help us to determine a rating\n")

## We do not see any obvious pattern that would certainly help us to determine a rating

### Feature Importance

### model\_RandomForest

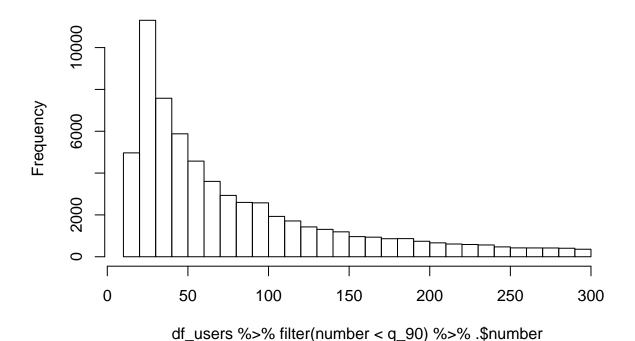


### Model 0: Mean/Median Rating

## Model 1: Mean/Median Rating per User

```
cat(min(df_users$number), max(df_users$number), "\n")
## 10 6616
q_90 <- quantile(df_users$number, 0.9)
hist(df_users %>% filter(number<q_90) %>% .$number, breaks = 30)
```

## Histogram of df\_users %>% filter(number < q\_90) %>% .\$number



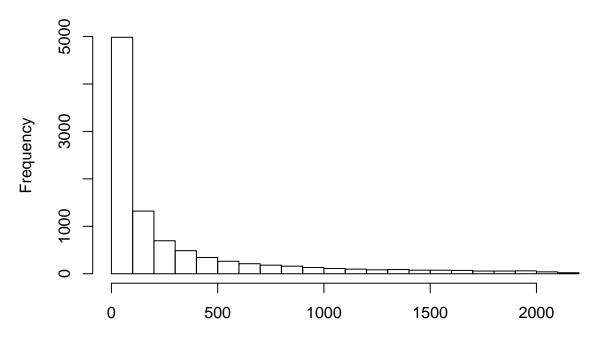
Model	RMSE
mean_per_user	0.978336
$median\_per\_user$	1.021136

kable(results\_temp, "latex", booktabs = TRUE) %>% kable\_styling(latex\_options = "striped")

## Model 2: Mean/Median Rating per Movie

```
cat(min(df_movies$number), max(df_movies$number), "\n")
## 1 31362
q_90 <- quantile(df_movies$number, 0.9)
hist(df_movies %>% filter(number<q_90) %>% .$number, breaks = 30)
```

## Histogram of df\_movies %>% filter(number < q\_90) %>% .\$number



df\_movies %>% filter(number < q\_90) %>% .\$number

Model	RMSE
mean_per_movie	0.9439087
median_per_movie	0.9716910

## Model 3 Mean/Median Rating per Year

### Model 4 Mean Rating per Genre

## Model 5 Ordinary Least Squares regression (OLS)

```
# data for regression type train
edx2 <- edx %>% select(-c(userId, movieId, genres, contains("median")))

ols <- lm(rating ~ ., data = edx2)
summary(ols)

##
## Call:
## lm(formula = rating ~ ., data = edx2)
##
## Residuals:
## Min    1Q Median    3Q Max
## -4.6629 -0.4994    0.0693    0.5856    4.8641</pre>
```

```
##
## Coefficients:
##
                  Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
                8.458e+00 1.671e-01 50.622 <2e-16 ***
## (Intercept)
## timestamp
                 -7.366e-03 8.100e-05 -90.948
                                                <2e-16 ***
## year
                 1.659e-03 4.063e-05 40.831 <2e-16 ***
                1.245e-01 3.671e-03 33.925
## mean_per_year
                                                 <2e-16 ***
## mean_per_genre -1.807e-03 2.642e-03 -0.684
                                                 0.494
## mean_per_movie 8.884e-01 6.366e-04 1395.644
                                                 <2e-16 ***
## mean_per_user
                 8.399e-01 6.894e-04 1218.263 <2e-16 ***
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## Residual standard error: 0.8714 on 9000048 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.3246, Adjusted R-squared: 0.3246
## F-statistic: 7.21e+05 on 6 and 9000048 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16
# test
results_temp <- tibble("Model" = "ols",
                      "RMSE" = RMSE(validation$rating, predict(ols, validation)))
results <- results %>% bind_rows(results_temp)
# show results table in latex format
kable(results_temp, "latex", booktabs = TRUE) %>% kable_styling(latex_options = "striped")
                                   Model
                                             RMSE
```

### Model 6 Movie Effect Model

```
y_i = \mu + b_{movie(i)} + \epsilon_i
```

ols

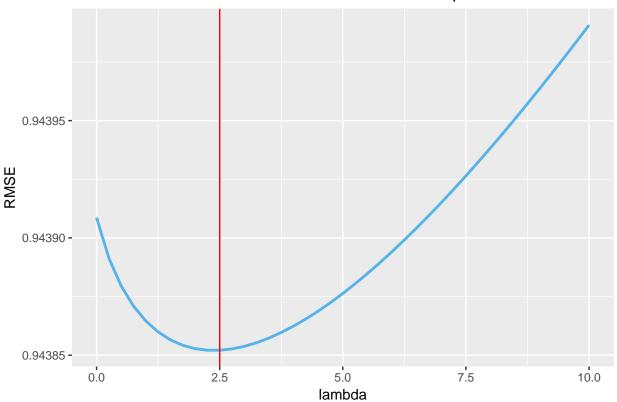
0.8786586

```
Movie_Effect_Model <- function(lambda, return_prediction=FALSE){</pre>
  # the average rating
  mu <- mean(edx$rating)</pre>
  # calculate b_movie coefficients
  movie effect <- edx %>%
    group_by(movieId) %>%
    summarize(b_m = sum(rating - mu) / (n() + lambda))
  # add to validation
  validation <- validation %>% left_join(movie_effect, by='movieId')
  # rmse
  my_rmse <- RMSE(validation$rating, (mu + validation$b_m))</pre>
  if (return_prediction){
    return(list("rmse"
                              = my_rmse,
                 "prediction" = mu + validation$b_m))
  }else{
    return(my_rmse)
```

```
# calculate errors for a set of lambda values and choose the smallest rmse
lambdas <- seq(0, 10, 0.25)
model_rmses <- sapply(lambdas, Movie_Effect_Model)
lambda_of_smallest_rmse <- lambdas[which.min(model_rmses)]

# plot it
ggplot() + geom_line(aes(lambdas, model_rmses), col="#56B4E9", size=1) +
    geom_vline(xintercept=lambda_of_smallest_rmse, col="red") + ggtitle("Movie Effect Model: RMSE as func</pre>
```

### Movie Effect Model: RMSE as function of lambda parameter



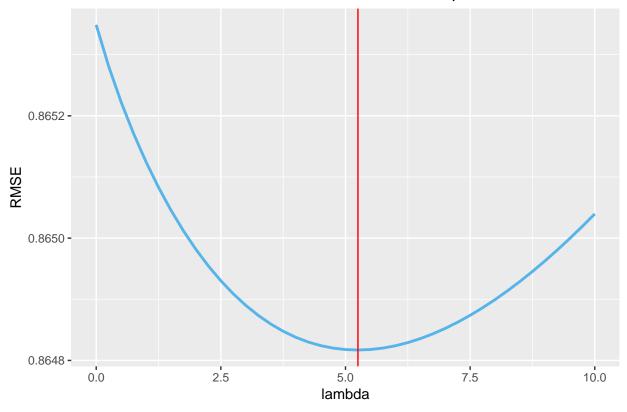
Model	RMSE
movie_effect	0.9438521

### Model 7 Movie User Effect Model

```
y_i = \mu + b_{movie(i)} + b_{user(i)} + \epsilon_i
```

```
Movie_User_Effect_Model <- function(lambda, return_prediction=FALSE){</pre>
  # the average rating
  mu <- mean(edx$rating)</pre>
  # calculate b_movie coefficients
  movie_effect <- edx %>%
    group by (movieId) %>%
    summarize(b_m = sum(rating - mu) / (n() + lambda))
  # calculate b_user coefficients
  movie_user_effect <- edx %>%
    left_join(movie_effect, by="movieId") %>%
    group by(userId) %>%
    summarize(b_u = sum(rating - mu - b_m) / (n() + lambda))
  # add to validation
  validation <- validation %>%
    left_join(movie_effect, by='movieId') %>%
    left_join(movie_user_effect, by='userId')
  # rmse
  my_rmse <- RMSE(validation$rating, (mu + validation$b_m + validation$b_u))
  if (return prediction){
    return(list("rmse"
                              = my_rmse,
                "prediction" = mu + validation$b m + validation$b u))
  }else{
    return(my_rmse)
  }
# calculate errors for a set of lambda values and choose the smallest rmse
lambdas <- seq(0, 10, 0.25)
model_rmses <- sapply(lambdas, Movie_User_Effect_Model)</pre>
lambda_of_smallest_rmse <- lambdas[which.min(model_rmses)]</pre>
# plot it
ggplot() + geom_line(aes(lambdas, model_rmses), col="#56B4E9", size=1) +
  geom_vline(xintercept=lambda_of_smallest_rmse, col="red") + ggtitle("Movie Effect Model: RMSE as func
```

### Movie Effect Model: RMSE as function of lambda parameter



Model	RMSE
movie_user_e	effect 0.864817

### Conclusion

The model that has the smallest RMSE is the Movie User Effect model

```
kable(results, "latex", booktabs = TRUE) %>% kable_styling(latex_options = "striped")
```

Model	RMSE
mean	1.0612018
median	1.1680160
mean_per_user	0.9783360
$median\_per\_user$	1.0211364
mean_per_movie	0.9439087
median_per_movie	0.9716910
mean_per_year	1.0500259
median_per_year	1.0661375
mean_per_genre	1.0702479
ols	0.8786586
$movie\_effect$	0.9438521
movie_user_effect	0.8648170